

The Portland Tribune

Sources Say: Will Democrats push tax measure to the ballot?

By Jim Redden

May 4, 2017

Democrats in the 2017 Oregon Legislature don't need two-thirds votes in the House and Senate to raise taxes. They can refer a tax measure to the ballot with a simple majority and hope it passes.

Because Democrats lack a two-thirds majority in both chambers, political observers repeatedly have said they need at least a few Republican votes to raise taxes to help close the projected \$1.6 million budget shortfall this session. That's true, unless the Democrats decide to refer their tax plan to the voters instead. That only requires the votes they already have.

The trouble is, voters won't decide whether to pass the measure until after the next budget takes effect July 1. So Democrats have to decide whether to pass a budget with deep cuts and count on voters coming to the rescue with new revenue, or keep trying to get the few Republican votes they need to increase taxes during what's left of the session.

Largest lobbyist group a surprise

The entity with the most lobbyists registered at City Hall is not a business or labor organization. It is the civic-minded League of Women Voters of Portland, which has 10 people currently registered as lobbyists with the Portland Auditor's Office.

People and entities must register if they spend over \$1,000 or more than eight hours lobbying the city during a quarter.

Other entities with many registered lobbyists include: Lyft and the Port of Portland, with eight apiece; McCall Oil and Chemical with seven; Uber with six; and Multifamily NW, the Portland Business Alliance, Portland State University and Open Signal with five.

Political consultants at City Hall

The most recent filing reports show that six political consultants currently are registered with the Portland Auditor's Office because they are providing services to three City Council members who previously employed them.

The filings are required because of changes to the previous lobbyist registration program successfully advocated by Commissioner Nick Fish.

Three of the consultants previously worked for Mayor Ted Wheeler. They are Weiden + Kennedy, Lake Research, and Storefront Political Media.

Gwen Schurman previously worked for Commissioner Dan Saltzman, while Winning Mark advised on the Children's Levy that Saltzman sponsored. And Hilltop Public Solutions is advising Fish on the short-term rental lodging tax measure on the May 17 special election ballot he sponsored.

Willamette Week

Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland Republicans Want Crackdown On Protesters

*By Corey Pein
May 3, 2017*

In the wake of a May Day march that the Portland Police Bureau [declared a riot](#) after Black Bloc members threw projectiles at officers and trashed a police vehicle, and the recent cancellation of a neighborhood parade following the receipt of a sole anonymous email threat, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and the Multnomah County Republican Party have come to agree on one thing: They are fed up with those meddling kids.

Wheeler [told KATU-TV](#) that he asked—or "directed," according to the news station—the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office "to pursue harsher charges and penalties for repeat offenders arrested at protests and riots." (The DA's office is an independent entity and does not answer to City Hall.)

Wheeler has been hounded by protesters at City Hall, and outside his own home, since taking office this year. He suggested light penalties had created a "revolving door" for perpetrators of violence and vandalism.

"There are people who are habitually engaged in vandalism or violence in our community. They shouldn't just walk scot-free," Wheeler told KATU. "They will be prosecuted."

The May Day rally and march was largely peaceful until a police loudspeaker announced the permit had been revoked and the march constituted an illegal gathering, at which point the few dozen Black Bloc in the thousand-strong crowd dispersed downtown and escalated their acts of vandalism.

Also today, James Buchal, chairman of the county Republicans, announced in a press release that the party was filing a public records request with the city requesting all communications regarding last Saturday's 82nd Avenue of Roses parade, which was [supplanted](#) by a [bizarre "free speech" march](#) attended by supporters of President Donald Trump and a number of far-right groups, including white supremacists, some from out of town.

"Portland Republicans cannot help but wonder," Buchal wrote, "whether the City is more interested in supporting the Leftist criminal elements who shut down the Parade and caused widespread property damage downtown, as opposed to supporting East County businesses and families who wanted to attend the Parade. Today we are filing a Public Records Act request with the Mayor's Office, the Portland Police, and the District Attorney's office to try and understand if this is really the case, and what on earth happened here."

Nationwide, the freedom of assembly has come under pressure from above, even as millions of Americans take to the streets to register their discontent with President Donald Trump.

Republican lawmakers around the country have introduced bills to [crack down on protests](#), including measures to effectively legalize vehicular assault on protesters who block public roadways. Prosecutors in Washington, D.C., charged Black Bloc protesters (and a number of journalists) with felony rioting [and additional charges](#) after [a limo was set ablaze](#) during Donald Trump's inauguration, drawing condemnation from free speech and civil liberties advocates.

Wheeler, a Democrat, has [stopped short](#) of endorsing the Department of Homeland Security's characterization of Portland's window-smashing anti-Trump protesters as domestic terrorists, however.

The Portland Mercury

It's the Mercury's Voter Cheat Sheet!

By Dirk VanderHart

May 3, 2017

Election day is May 16! The Mercury carefully considered three ballot measures Portlanders will be asked to vote on. Listen or don't, but be sure to vote either way (and visit [this article](#) for our full reasoning).

MEASURE 26-193—\$790 Million Schools Bond: YES

Portland Public Schools are in disrepair. Sure there are leadership questions, and mismanagement has been uncovered with shocking regularity. But that doesn't change the fact we need to put more money into fixing our aging schools (see: [sewage in the Cleveland High School cafeteria](#)).

MEASURE 26-189—Increased Independence for the City Auditor's Office: YES

Auditor Mary Hull Caballero is pushing for changes to the city charter that will clear up some thorny potential conflicts of interest that her employees encounter on a regular basis. It makes sense.

MEASURE 26-194—Tweaks to Transient Lodging Tax: YES

Short-term rental platform HomeAway is being a jerk and refusing to pay the six percent tax the city slaps on lodging stays. Courts have ruled the city needs to change its charter to force HomeAway to pay up. That's what this does.