

Measure 97: Our Oregon developed the tax measure

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Brown said Oregonians have for too long been paying more than their fair share for the cost of state services, and it's time to increase corporations' contribution.

Opponents have focused on studies that show consumers would pay for much of the cost of the tax. The typical Oregon family would see their costs climb by about \$600 in the form of higher prices and job opportunities, according to an estimate by the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office.

Economists disagree on the exact impact the tax will have on consumers, Brown noted. However, the alliance's vehement resistance to the tax proves that corporations won't be passing all of the cost onto consumers, she argued.

Brown claimed Measure 97 is the only viable alternative to keep the state's existing investments in early child education, full-day kindergarten, college and univer-

sity tuition grants and expansions in health care coverage.

Yet the governor took no action during the February legislative session when state lawmakers proposed more moderate alternatives to the tax.

Our Oregon, a union-backed advocacy group, developed the tax measure through the state's initiative petition process.

"I don't see the initiative process as the best way to make public policy," Brown said.

Describing the process as "blunt instrument," the governor said she believes lawmakers would need to make statutory changes to improve the law, if voters approve it. She said she would involve the business community in any process designed to modify the tax measure.

Without the tax, an estimated \$1.35 billion shortfall in 2017-19 would force state agencies to trim their budgets by 10 percent, Brown said.

"That is just untenable for me," she said.



Gov. Kate Brown said Wednesday at the Portland Business Alliance that her endorsement of Measure 97, a controversial corporate tax proposal, "truly was the most difficult decision I have ever made during my time in office."



Mary Todd's Workers Bar & Grill in Uniontown is listed through Popkin Real Estate for \$595,000, including the building and business.

Mary Todd: Bar listed for \$595,000

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Todd said the recent death of John Berdes, the former president and CEO of financial lender Craft3, also played into her decision to retire from the bar.

"John was my guardian angel," she said. "He was proud of me. I needed that."

Around the time Todd and her husband lost the lease to the bar in the mid-1990s, Berdes had recently joined

what was then ShoreBank Enterprise Pacific. Todd said Berdes offered to help and refinanced the bar through ShoreBank.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him," Todd said.

Todd gained a reputation for working long hours on the floor and behind the bar, building Mary Todd's standing. The bar has become a local favorite that also draws people from far and wide, many of whom visit to have their picture

taken with Todd.

Todd also earned a reputation as a charitable businesswoman, regularly raising thousands of dollars for Toys for Tots. "I run it with my heart," she said. "I just hope the next person who comes" in does the same.

Despite how much she loves her employees and customers at the bar, Todd said her life has just moved in a different direction. "I'm living my life the AA way. I feel in my

heart that I need to do something more helpful for people," she said.

Todd said there are many young people in the region deeply addicted to alcohol, heroin and other drugs. But if they can see what she sees after more than five years of sobriety, she said, there is hope.

Mary Todd's Workers Bar & Grill, located at 283 W. Marine Drive, is listed through Popkin Real Estate for \$595,000.



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