

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recall of Kent van der Kamp Committee Acknowledges Resignation

Deschutes County, Oregon – On Monday, June 23, 2025 at 8:00a.m. The Recall Kent van der Kamp Committee sent a press release announcing formation, and a call for volunteers, to recall Kent van der Kamp as Sheriff on the grounds of dishonesty, abuse of authority, and misconduct. Shortly after publication, the Recall Committee learned of Kent van der Kamp's announcement to resign on July 31 from media contacts first, followed by the Deschutes County Clerk. Kent van der Kamp had released a statement of his intention to resign at 8:20a.m. to Deschutes County officials, and at 8:36a.m. to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

The Recall Committee in the formation announcement stated, "Until Kent van der Kamp is officially out of the office of Deschutes County Sheriff, on his own accord or through official process, the recall effort will move forward. Voters elected Kent van der Kamp, voters can remove him from the office of Sheriff through a recall election," Jennifer Stephens, Community Advocate commented.

In the days following the recall formation announcement, and Kent van der Kamp's resignation announcement, the Recall Committee learned the resignation statement would become legally binding on Thursday, July 26 at 5:00p if Kent van der Kamp did not rescind his statement of intention to resign on July 31.

Kent van der Kamp had ignored calls to resign immediately from the Deschutes County Sheriffs Employee Association, elected leaders, former campaign supporters, and community members, and when asked, van der Kamp gives wide ranging dates for his "retirement," and various excuses for staying in office. As such, the Recall Committee pressed forward as planned.

The Recall Committee learned this morning, Friday, June 27, that Kent van der Kamp did not rescind his statement of resignation and the seat of Sheriff will be declared vacant on July 31, or sooner if he leaves office on an earlier date.

"While we had hoped Kent van der Kamp would have heeded calls to resign immediately from his employees, local leaders, and community members, we acknowledge his pending resignation is now legally binding," said Clifford Evelyn, Redmond City Councilor.

The Recall Kent van der Kamp Committee was prepared to formally file on Monday, July 7, the first official day to submit paperwork with the Deschutes County Clerk. “We developed a plan to collect 20,000 signatures in less than 90 days. Thank you to the hundreds of people who signed up to volunteer and collect signatures and/or contribute financially to the recall effort,” said Jenny Lingard, Public Safety Advocate.

A recall election is the failsafe to remove Kent van der Kamp as Sheriff, if he would not be removed by other means before election day. “We are relying on Deschutes County officials to direct next steps. Until Kent van der Kamp is officially out of the office, the Recall Committee will monitor and help communicate updates to those interested in the recall effort. If circumstances change and Kent van der Kamp somehow manages to stay in office, we will pick up right where we left off,” said Lingard.

“The Recall Committee maintains concern about Kent van der Kamp actively serving as Sheriff until July 31, and understands from County officials his resignation is now legally binding. Although the recall of Kent van der Kamp as sheriff has been unconventional and short-lived thus far, the recall effort is successful,” said Detective Sergeant Thomas “Lily” Lilienthal.

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