

Submitter: Jodi Lee Real
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

Dear [Senator/Representative/Committee Members],

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1599, which would move the vote on Referendum Petition 302 from the November 2026 general election to the May primary.

Oregon's referendum process exists to ensure that major policy decisions—especially those involving tax increases and statewide impacts—are decided by the largest and most representative electorate possible. November general elections consistently produce significantly higher voter participation than primary elections. Moving this vote to May would exclude many voters, including independents and less frequent voters, and would undermine the legitimacy of the outcome.

Voters who signed Referendum Petition 302 did so with the reasonable expectation that the measure would appear on the general election ballot, as is customary. Changing the election date after the petition has qualified alters the rules midstream and erodes public trust in Oregon's direct democracy system.

Regardless of one's position on the underlying transportation taxes and fees, the question of when voters decide should not be manipulated to favor a particular outcome. The people—not the Legislature—should decide this issue in a high-turnout, general election where all voices are more equally represented.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SB 1599 and allow Referendum Petition 302 to be decided by voters in November 2026 as expected.

Thank you for your consideration and for respecting Oregon voters and the integrity of our referendum process.

Sincerely,
Jodi Lee Real
[Central Point, Oregon]