

Submitter: Benjamin Roche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose moving the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the November 2026 General Election to the May primary.

This referendum qualified through Oregon's constitutional process. Signatures were gathered, verified, and certified with a clear understanding shared by voters and volunteers alike: this measure would be decided in November 2026.

Every petition sheet carried the election date in the top right corner. Voters signed knowing when their vote would occur. That detail was not incidental — it informed their decision to participate.

Changing the election date after qualification alters the electorate, compresses voter information timelines, and undermines trust in the initiative and referendum process. Citizens must be able to rely on the rules as presented when they are asked to sign.

Moving this vote now weakens confidence in Oregon's direct democracy system and sets a troubling precedent that terms can change after the work is done.

I urge you to keep the referendum on the November ballot and protect the integrity of the process.

Thank you.