

Submitter: Dennis Corthell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Subject: Respect the Will of 250,000+ Oregon Voters — Keep the Referendum on the November Ballot

I am writing to strongly oppose efforts to move the SB 1599 tax referendum from the November 2026 general election ballot to the May primary.

Over 250,000 Oregonians signed the petition to refer this tax to the voters in November, when the broadest cross-section of the public participates. Changing the election date after citizens have lawfully qualified the measure undermines the referendum process and erodes public trust.

Moving a major tax decision to a low-turnout primary election is not about voter access—it appears to be about managing the electorate rather than respecting it. The people followed the law, met the signature threshold, and earned their right to be heard in November.

I urge you to:

Respect the constitutional referendum process

Honor the intent of the petition signers

Keep the vote on SB 1599 on the November general election ballot

Oregonians deserve transparency, fairness, and respect for the rule of law.