

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

When Oregon citizens signed this petition in record numbers, they did so with the clear understanding that it would appear on the November ballot, where turnout often exceeds 70-80% and includes a broad cross-section of independents, moderates, and working families who bear the brunt of these taxes. Primaries, by contrast, draw only 30-40% turnout, skewed toward partisan insiders. This isn't "practical governance" or "resolving uncertainty"—it's a calculated move to avoid accountability, especially with the governor's race on the same November ballot, where these unpopular taxes could drag down incumbents.

Proponents have even admitted the political calculus behind it: the tax package is so deeply unpopular that it stands a better chance in a low-turnout election. Please reject SB 1599 immediately. Keep Referendum 2026-302 on the November ballot where it belongs, so every Oregonian—not just a select few—can decide.