

Submitter: B. David Hurley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

The voters of Oregon have spoken. And the Secretary of State has already certified the voters' referendum to the November 2026 general election.

In record time, more than 250,000 Oregonians signed petitions to refer this gas tax to the ballot. Those petitions clearly stated the election date as November 3, guaranteeing voters their right to weigh in when participation is highest and every voice has a fair shot at being heard.

Instead of respecting that process, legislative politicians are now trying to fast-track this vote into a low-turnout primary, dramatically reducing public participation and limiting accountability. And they are clearly failing to listen to or represent the voters who elected them.

If this policy is truly good for Oregon, it should be able to stand on its own in a full general election. Attempting to bury it in an off-cycle election only confirms what Oregonians already know: this gas tax is unpopular, and voters deserve a real, meaningful say.

Members of both parties agree that ODOT's budget can be balanced with existing resources. If affordability is truly a priority, the answer is not more taxes—it's listening to the Oregonians who have overwhelmingly rejected them.