

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

I am writing to express my adamant opposition to Senate Bill 1599, which proposes moving the referendum on the HB 3991 transportation tax package from the November general election to the May primary.

The citizens of Oregon have already signaled their resounding rejection of this bill through a historic petition signed by over 250,000 people [1]. Those citizens signed with the clear expectation that this tax increase would be decided in November, when voter turnout is at its highest.

SB 1599 is a transparent attempt to circumvent the will of the people by shifting the vote to a lower-turnout primary [2]. This maneuver undermines the integrity of our referendum process and disenfranchises hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who demanded a say in these significant tax hikes.

I urge you to honor the democratic process and vote NO on SB 1599. Keep the referendum in November as originally intended by the voters.

Sources:

[1] Oregon Capital Chronicle - Petition against Oregon transportation law pauses gas tax and fee hikes

[2] Natural Resource Report - Legislative/Ag Update 2-7-2026: SB 1599 Analysis