

Submitter: Scott Benedetti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 1599. This bill would move a duly qualified referendum from the November 2026 ballot to a lower-turnout May election, undermining the intent of the 250,000 Oregonians who signed the petition and diminishing the opportunity for broad public participation in a matter of significant statewide importance. Oregon law and democratic principles favor maximizing voter access and ensuring that major fiscal decisions are decided in elections with the highest possible participation. Relocating the referendum to a lower-visibility election risks disenfranchising voters and eroding public trust in the legislative process. For these reasons, I urge the Legislature to reject SB 1599 and preserve the referendum for the November ballot.