

Submitter: Eric Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Subject: Please Oppose SB 1599 – Keep the Referendum on the November Ballot
Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Johnson, and I am a resident of Oregon. I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 1599 and to allow the transportation tax referendum to remain on the November 2026 ballot as originally required by law.

Last fall, more than 250,000 Oregonians—including myself—signed a petition to place this issue before the voters. We did so because we believe decisions about significant new taxes and fees should be made by the people who must pay them. That is the purpose of Oregon's referendum process.

Moving this vote from November to May would substantially reduce public participation. November elections consistently have the highest turnout and give the broadest cross-section of Oregonians the opportunity to be heard. Shifting the vote to a lower-turnout election would diminish the voices of working families, seniors, and everyday citizens who expect fair access to the democratic process.

Regardless of where one stands on the proposed transportation taxes, this issue deserves full and open consideration by as many voters as possible. The question is not simply about transportation funding—it is about protecting the integrity of Oregon's referendum system and respecting the will of the people who followed the rules to bring this issue forward.

Oregon law has long recognized that statewide referendums belong on the November ballot. Changing the rules after citizens have already done the hard work of gathering signatures undermines public trust and sends the message that the Legislature is more interested in controlling outcomes than listening to voters.

I respectfully ask you to stand with Oregon voters and oppose SB 1599. Please ensure that this important decision is made in the election where the greatest number of Oregonians can participate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson
Salem, Oregon