

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

Text Testimony:

I strongly urge you to leave the SB 1599 tax referendum on the November general election ballot rather than attempting to shift it to the May primary. Holding this referendum in November respects the democratic principle of wide participation, especially on major questions that directly impact everyday Oregonians — from fuel costs to transportation infrastructure funding. Attempting to shift the vote to May because of political strategy undermines the fundamental idea that voters, not political calculations, should decide large tax and fee changes. Democracy works best when decisions of consequence are made with maximum engagement, transparency, and legitimacy. Keeping the referendum on the November ballot honors the effort of those who gathered signatures, and it respects Oregon voters' right to have their say in the forum with the greatest voter involvement.

Thank you.

Richard olson