

Submitter: Karen Heuberger
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

Over 250,000 Oregonians signed the referendum petition to allow citizens to vote in November, 2026 regarding the transportation bill/tax increases. Governor Kotek waited until the last moment for her signature on the bill; thus reducing the time available to gather signatures. A rather underhanded act! However, the citizenry responded in amazing numbers. Citizens want to vote/express their will on this matter. And they want to have it on the November, 2026 general election ballot----as was stated on the referendum petition that they signed. This proposal to move the election to the May, 2026 primary is truly the ultimate "bait and switch". It is a shameful end run around democracy. And the reason is transparent: Fewer votes are cast in May primary elections than in November general elections; so the hope is that low turnout will help keep the taxes high.