

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

Dear Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

My name is Lindsay Berschauer, I live in McMinnville, and I'm a former Yamhill County Commissioner.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB 1599. Over 12,000 Yamhill County voters signed the gas and payroll tax petition, well above the initial stated goal. As you are aware, over 250,000 Oregonians signed the petition in record-breaking time. The majority of legislators ignored initial testimony against these taxes and they are now paying the price for that. Raising gas and payroll taxes to cover ODOT's budget mess is not a winning solution. You know it, we know it.

Petition signers understood that they were signing a petition for a referendum for the November General Election ballot. Playing games with the timing of the referendum only further fuels distrust and solidifies voter contempt for the majority party. You should honor the will of the voters whether you agree with it or not. That is why Oregon has a strong referendum process. It's a check and balance against government corruption and overreach.

I also understand this committee is considering taking over the ballot drafting process from the Oregon Secretary of State. At a time when the SOS is diligently trying to restore trust in our elections process, the last thing they need is for a group of politicians to take control of their function of government. This will only further inflame the electorate.

Put the referendum on the November General Election ballot as was always intended. Don't monkey with this process because certain politicians don't want to own their bad votes on the transportation package.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Berschauer