

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

I am an Oregon resident writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1599.

SB 1599 proposes moving referendums from the November general election to the May election cycle. This change would significantly reduce voter participation and limit the ability of Oregonians to have a meaningful say on major policy decisions—especially those affecting taxes and statewide priorities.

Oregon law has long recognized that the general election in November is when the greatest number of voters participate. That is precisely why referendums belong on that ballot. Shifting these decisions to May, when turnout is consistently much lower, does not serve transparency, fairness, or democratic engagement. Instead, it limits the number of Oregonians who can weigh in on issues that directly impact their lives.

Regardless of one's political views, voter access and participation should be a priority. The Legislature should be working to increase civic involvement, not reduce it. SB 1599 undermines this principle and erodes trust in the legislative process by appearing to change election timing for political advantage rather than public benefit.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on SB 1599 and to uphold Oregon's long-standing commitment to broad voter participation and open democratic processes.