

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gloria Hobbs, and I'm submitting opposing testimony on SB 1599, which would move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302—referring parts of Chapter 1, Oregon Laws 2025 (special session)—to the May 19, 2026 primary election.

I oppose SB 1599 for three reasons:

1. It weakens the intent of the referendum process. Oregonians participated in this referral expecting it to be decided at the November 2026 General Election, when statewide turnout is typically higher and more representative of the whole state.
2. It risks a less representative vote. Primary elections generally have lower participation than general elections, which makes them a poor setting for a major statewide policy decision that affects all Oregonians.
3. It creates confusion and reduces trust. Changing the election date after the referral effort is already underway feels like political maneuvering. That kind of change erodes confidence in the process and in our elections.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 1599 and keep this referendum on the November 2026 General Election ballot.

Respectfully,
Gloria Hobbs