

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

Please oppose SB 1599

My name is Rose Kaler, and I am a fourth-generation Oregonian. Along with many friends and fellow citizens, I worked hard to collect signatures for the anti-gas tax referendum petition (Referendum Petition 2026-302).

Volunteers across Oregon gathered more than 250,000 valid signatures from Oregonians who understood—and expected—that voters would decide this issue in the November 2026 general election, when turnout is highest and the most voices can be heard.

SB 1599 is an insult to every one of those signers. It seeks to move the referendum to the May primary, undermining the clear intent of the people who signed the petition.

Oregon's initiative and referendum processes are sacred rights protected by our state Constitution (Article IV, Section 1). They reserve to the people the power to approve or reject laws passed by the Legislature. These petitions are not casual suggestions; they are formal, legally binding instruments that trigger official processes, meet strict verification standards, and are subject to court scrutiny.

The petitions we circulated explicitly promised a vote in November. Changing the election date now disrespects the will of more than 250,000 Oregonians and weakens our long-standing tradition of direct democracy.

Please honor the signatures we collected in good faith. I oppose SB 1599