

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

Dear Legislator,

My name is Randy, and I am writing as an Oregon resident to express my opposition to SB 1599, which would move the transportation referendum from the November general election to the May primary.

I want to be very clear: my family believes in investing in transportation infrastructure. I grew up in a family involved in highway and bridge construction, and I understand firsthand how critical stable, reliable funding is for safety, mobility, and economic development. When transportation packages have gone before voters in the past, I have supported gas tax increases and encouraged others to do the same.

My concern here is not whether infrastructure should be funded.

My concern is the process and whether Oregonians are being given a fair opportunity to vote.

More than 250,000 people signed the referendum so the public could weigh in. Many of them were not trying to kill transportation funding — they simply wanted the chance to participate in the decision at the ballot box, in a high-turnout election where the most voices could be heard.

The Legislature passed the original transportation bill at the end of September. The Governor then waited more than a month, until early November, to sign it — even though she could have acted sooner. Because the referendum timeline begins only after a signature, that delay compressed the process for voters.

Now, after citizens successfully completed the hard work of gathering signatures, SB 1599 would move the vote again — this time to a lower-turnout May election with less public attention and less opportunity for debate.

From the outside, it feels like the rules keep changing after the public has done exactly what was asked of them.

Regardless of where someone stands on the tax itself, Oregonians asked for a vote. They deserve that vote in November, when participation is highest and the outcome best reflects the will of the state.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1599 and allow the referendum to proceed in the November general election.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Randy