

Submitter: Sam Clement

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition  
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

SB 1599 is a direct attack on Oregon's constitutional referendum process. Citizens followed the law, gathered the required signatures, and earned a vote in the November general election. This bill changes the rules only after the people exercised their rights — because the Legislature does not like the potential outcome. Moving the vote to a low-turnout May primary is not about efficiency or timing. It is about suppressing participation and manipulating results. If lawmakers can rewrite election rules whenever a referendum becomes inconvenient, then the referendum power itself is meaningless.

This body should not fear voters. It should respect them. SB 1599 is an abuse of legislative power and sets a dangerous precedent. It must be rejected.