

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

To: The Oregon State Legislature
From: Jeff Taylor
Date: February 8, 2026
Subject: Opposition to SB 1599

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1599, which proposes moving the referendum on transportation taxes from the November general election to the May primary. This bill undermines our democratic process and the constitutional rights of over 250,000 Oregonians who signed Referendum Petition 2026-302.

By shifting this important issue to a low-turnout primary election, the legislature is effectively suppressing voter participation on a \$4 billion tax measure that affects the cost of living for every citizen. According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Elections Division, petitions are processed and placed on the ballot only after signature verification confirms that they contain enough valid signatures. Changing the election date after this step undermines the expectations of those who signed the petition, who believed the measure would appear on the anticipated November ballot.

Additionally, using an emergency clause to push this change through prevents the public from challenging the date change itself. This is an overreach that bypasses the "reserved power" of the people, as protected under Article IV of the Oregon Constitution.

I urge you to respect the integrity of the referendum process and the voices of your constituents by voting "No" on SB 1599. Let the people decide on a full and fair ballot in November.

Sincerely,
Jeff Taylor
Bend, Oregon