

SB1599 Opposition Testimony

Carl Garner, Salem Resident

To the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to this bill.

I am registered as independent because both the major parties have abandoned the real reason for our democratic process. It has become an US vs THEM battle and the purpose of our constitution...to do what is best for the people...is trampled by political power grabs. Civility and true collaboration are lost! It is a sad statement of what 'representative government' has become.

This bill is a blatant attempt to silence the voice of the people of Oregon. The original bill that imposed these horrific tax hikes was a power grab ramrodded by one party. The voice of the people loudly responded with many more signatures than needed to refer this deplorable measure to the people. The November election was chosen to obtain the maximum opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard.

It is well known that voter turnout in the May primary is very low. Primary election measures and candidates are generally of lower impact and many voters, like me who are independent, are excluded from voting for candidates, so the May election means very little.

It is shockingly clear that changing the date of the referendum special election to the May primary is another sneaky ploy to avoid accountability and totally ignore the voice of Oregonians who are struggling under the burdens of an irresponsible government.

I plead with the committee to fail this measure! Listen for once to the voice of the people who you are sworn to represent. Leave the referendum on the November ballot and let the people impacted by your work have their rightful say in the matter.

Please drop the political games for power and do what you took an oath to do!