

Submitter: Barbara Kahl  
On Behalf Of: Tax Payers  
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition  
2026-302  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Subject: Firm Opposition to SB 1599 – Stop the Legislature from Silencing Oregon Voters

Dear Chair and Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

I am a resident of Yamhill County, Oregon. I vehemently oppose SB 1599, which would cynically move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302—the people's referral of the massive 2025 transportation tax and fee increases (gas tax hikes, registration/title fees, transit payroll taxes)—from the November 3, 2026 general election to the low-turnout May 19, 2026 primary.

Over 250,000 Oregonians, including many in rural Yamhill County, signed petitions explicitly referring this unpopular tax package to the November ballot for maximum voter participation and scrutiny. We trusted the process outlined on those petitions. Now, Democratic leaders are attempting to rewrite the rules midstream to suppress turnout, limit debate, and dodge accountability for their \$4+ billion tax grab.

Oregon's legislative majority has repeatedly ignored the will of the people—stalling signatures, mishandling the original bill, and now pushing this maneuver to bury the referendum in a primary where fewer voices are heard. Moving it undermines the very law we are to trust: the referendum process enshrined in our Constitution to check out-of-touch legislation. This is not governance; it is manipulation designed to silence voters who already said "no" to these burdensome increases on families, farmers, commuters, and small businesses.

Reject SB 1599 outright. Honor the petitioners' clear intent, respect over a quarter-million signatures, and keep this vote on November 3, 2026, where every Oregonian can participate fully. Stop playing games with our democracy.

Thank you for considering my strong opposition.  
Sincerely,

Dr Barbara Kahl  
Yamhill County, Oregon