

Submitter: Kenneth Jackola

On Behalf of: N/A

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition 2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ken Jackola, and I am a resident of Lebanon, Or. I am writing today in opposition to SB1599, and its attempt to circumvent referendum process as outlined in the State Initiative and Referendum Manual provided by the Oregon Secretary of State: Elections Division.

My opposition is based in three irrefutable facts:

First, the declaration of an emergency is unfounded and is merely a political maneuver by the democrat caucus to prevent unfriendly optics during the general election in November 2026. Having democrat candidates' names appearing on the same ballot as the referendum is viewed by the democratic caucus as damaging to their success at the ballot box. Let us be clear, "There is no emergency."

Second, historical voter turnout data provided by the Oregon Secretary of State, Elections Division accurately illustrates the difference in voter turnout. During primary elections in 2024, voter turnout was calculated at 35.80% this is in stark contrast to the general elections of the same year which measured turnout over 75%. Political maneuvers such as this can only be concluded as an attempt at voter suppression. The Oregon Democratic Party platform outlined in article 8 under the "accurate and secure elections" section of the document states a mandate to **eliminate voter suppression**. I confidently submit that SB1599 does not satisfy this mandate but contradicts it.

Lastly, the integrity of the referendum process is at risk when obvious political maneuvers as SB1599 are conducted. The voter must trust the process. SB1599 destroys this trust. We must adhere to a consistent application of our business of government.

These facts outline why I strongly recommend a "NO" vote on SB1599.

Respectfully,

Ken Jackola, Lebanon, Or.