

Submitter: Regan Dugger
On Behalf Of: The Voice of Oregon Voters
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

Attn: Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

The people who are legal, registered voters appear to have made a grievous error. We voted for those we wanted to represent us in the State of Oregon House and Senate, trusting that they would do just that: represent the people. Somehow, the power-hungry, supermajority Democrats believe they know better than anyone who participates in governmental processes (i.e. submit written testimony, recall and referendum petitions). They publicly display their disdain, dislike, contempt, and in some cases unveiled hatred for anyone who opposes their point of view. and/or dislike (it feels stronger, more like hateful).

The legally registered voters had to step in after the Republican proposals to repurpose existing funds within ODOT, while still prioritizing safety and maintenance had been completely ignored and rejected outright by their Democrat colleagues. In spite of a very, very, very small contingent of Democrats refusing to sign onto the big ODOT bill (they believed in compromise) during 2025 session, they joined the rank-and-file supermajority during the special session to force passage of a funding bill, with one of the largest tax increases in Oregon's history. The people spoke out against this bill time after time, but it fell on blind Democrats' eyes and deaf Democrats' ears.

I've never seen a bill so overwhelmingly opposed as this ODOT funding bill. More than 92% of the written testimony submitted during 2025 regular session screamed to the legislature that we need tax cuts, not tax increases or new taxes! The visual of printed testimony, for and opposed, was viscerally demonstrable as it showed what appeared to be a 12-inch stack of paper representing the oppositions and about 1/4-inch stack of paper reflecting the opinions in favor of the bill. Yet our supermajority Democratic legislators ignored the people. This shows how little the Democrats respect all voters. Oregonians were outraged and decided to remind our elected officials that this is a representative government, not a power-grab of self-enrichment on the backs of taxpayers.

Rather than allow our elected officials to ignore the people, we stepped in again on this same issue by gathering signatures for a referendum vote on the matter. The visual image of the written testimony wasn't a fluke, and it couldn't have been more evident when over 250,000 Oregonians shouted to the legislature, "Let us decide for ourselves, since the supermajority Democrats mistakenly believe that they know

what's best for the voters and taxpayers of Oregon!!" Even after all of this, these deaf and blind Democrats continue to try and cheat the voters of what they want because it isn't what the Democrats want. Just get out of the way!!! We want to decide this matter in November, during the General Election. We didn't ask to have this be on the May Primary ballot! We said put this on the November General ballot!

This hatred, disdain, ignorance, and divisive behavior of our supermajority, elected officials in Salem must STOP! Stop telling the people that we don't know what we want. Stop acting in contradiction to what we do. Just allow this to play out the way we've asked. If 250,000 registered voter signatures are not enough to convince the Democrats to step out of the way of what the people want, to allow Oregonian voices to be heard when they want to be heard, then it is time for the Democrats to resign, not run for re-election, or change the law to require bipartisan support for EVERY new law they force on the backs of every Oregonian. Do NOT CHANGE THIS REFERENDUM TO THE PRIMARY IN MAY!!

Respectfully submitted,
R. Dugger, McMinnville