

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

I write in opposition to moving the referendum signed by the people from the November election to the May primary election. 250,000 people signed a document that said it was going to be on the November election. Yet the legislature is attempting to override the will of the people and change it to May. Those of you who passed the bill out of the special session did not listen to the people in the special session, when 95% of that testimony was against the bill. Then the Governor delayed signing as long as possible to give the people less time to gather signatures. The people did not let those games deter us. We the People gathered those signatures anyway and gathered way more than required to get it put on the November ballot. Now the majority of the legislature is playing a game again trying to move it to the May election. The games backfired last time, and I predict they will backfire again. Historically the May primary election has a lower turnout, so moving it to May is in hopes that it will fail, is a game. I believe you are once again underestimating the people. We also remember that you were going to try to repeal the bill to stop it from going to vote until a 1935 opinion of the then Attorney General said that you could not repeal to stop the vote of the people, but that opinion also said that the subject matter of the referendum was off limits until the people voted. I believe that this vote to move it from November to May is in violation of the Attorney General Opinion and you the legislature should not even be discussing the referendum in a bill until after We the People vote on it in November, just like We the People petitioned. The only question we have now, is the majority in the legislature going to listen to We the People NOW. We will be heard in May and November when we vote.