

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

My name is Rose Kaler, and I'm a fourth-generation Oregonian. Along with many of my friends and fellow citizens, I worked hard to collect signatures for the anti-gas-tax referendum petition (Referendum Petition 2026-302). We gathered more than 250,000 valid signatures from Oregonians who understood—and expected—that voters would decide this issue in the November 2026 general election, when turnout is highest and the most voices can be heard. SB 1599 is an insult to every one of those signers. It seeks to move the referendum to the May primary instead, undermining the clear intent of the people who signed. Oregon's initiative and referendum processes are sacred rights protected by our state Constitution (Article IV, Section 1). They reserve to the people the power of referendum to approve or reject laws passed by the Legislature. These petitions are not casual suggestions—they are formal, legally binding instruments that trigger official processes, meet strict verification standards, and can face court scrutiny. The petitions we circulated explicitly promised a vote in November. Changing the date now disrespects the will of over 250,000 Oregonians and weakens our tradition of direct democracy. Please honor the signatures we collected in good faith. Keep the referendum on the November 2026 general election ballot, where the fullest expression of Oregon voters can decide the fate of these transportation tax and fee increases. Thank you for listening to the people of Oregon.