

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

I strongly oppose SB 1599 and ask the committee to vote NO.

More than 250,000 Oregonians signed petitions for a November 2026 referendum on a \$4.3 billion gas and tax increase. That effort reflects months of work by citizens who relied on the rules as they were written and the assurances given to them.

Moving this vote to a low-turnout May primary is not a technical correction—it is a political decision that reduces participation and shields lawmakers from accountability. Elections should be scheduled to maximize voter engagement, not minimize it.

SB 1599 also replaces citizen committees with hand-picked legislators who already voted for the tax. This removes independent oversight and further erodes trust in the ballot process.

Changing election rules after citizens have acted damages confidence in our democratic system. The referendum should remain on the November general election ballot, exactly as voters were told it would be.

Please vote NO on SB 1599.