

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

I strongly oppose SB 1599.

More than 250,000 Oregonians signed petitions to place a referendum on the November 2026 general election ballot regarding the \$4.3 billion gas and tax increase. That commitment to voters should be honored.

Moving this vote to a low turnout May primary is not a neutral process change. It is a partisan maneuver designed to reduce participation and avoid public accountability.

SB 1599 also replaces citizen review committees with hand picked legislators who already voted for the tax increase. This change undermines public trust and removes independent oversight from the ballot process.

Voters were clearly told this referendum would appear on the November general election ballot. That promise matters.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1599 and allow Oregonians to vote on this gas tax increase in November, as originally stated.