

Submitter: Beth Morey
Committee: Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302
Measure: SB 1599

This bill is the Fourth attempt in the last six months by our elected leaders in Salem to silence Oregonian's voices on taxes. First it was enacted even with overwhelming testimony against it. Then the Governor purposely delayed signing it by almost 30 days (and she signed it at the end of a Friday headed into Veteran's Day holiday weekend). Then the Governor tried to repeal the law (which avoids it getting onto a ballot at all). And now legislators who represent Oregonians are attempting to avert the will of the referendum signers by moving the vote date from what our referendum outlined.

I imagine part of the strategy to move the vote to the May ballot is a repeat of what Oregonians endured when the Governor's signature signing was purposefully delayed almost 30 days after legislators enacted the bill. Each day the Governor withheld her signature was intended to reduce the collection of signatures needed to force the law onto the ballot for Oregonians to decide for themselves. Over 250,000 Oregonians dedicated time – during their busy holiday season – to find a location to sign the referendum in a very limited window of time.

Then the Governor attempted to erase Oregonians' opportunity to vote on the law by repealing it?! If getting the bill on the May ballot instead of the November ballot is such an emergency, why did the Governor try to repeal the law. She tried to remove a certified referendum.

Our "leaders" know moving the referendum on transportation taxes and fee increases from the November election to the May ballot exposes it to lesser voter turnout. Please do not do this to your constituents again. You may disagree with the referendum, but finding loopholes to further an agenda does not represent Oregonians. Please give Oregonians the November ballot opportunity we resoundingly said we wanted.

Please vote No on