

Submitter: Glenn Le Vernois
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

Testimony AGAINST Senate Bill 1599

Over the past 6 months, I've watched our elected officials in Salem work to disenfranchise the hard-working tax-paying Oregonians who elected them. The "emergency" session called by the Governor over labor-day weekend to finalize this pork-heavy tax, the several week delay in "voting" on this bill, as a key democratic legislator was recovering from surgery. The governor waiting till the last minute to sign the bill, reducing the time opponents would have to mount a recall petition.

But the people of Oregon did mount a recall petition... One if not the most successful in Oregon's history. Almost 250,000 signatures were collected and the Secretary of State verified that the referendum qualified. As stated on the petition, this referendum would appear on the November 2026 ballot.

Now our democratic "leadership" (sarcasm) wants to refer this to the May election, so that this referendum would not be on the same ballot as the democrat Governor candidate and may not pass given lower voter turnout during a minor election. SB 1599 was also declared as an "EMERGENCY" but will not take affect until 2028. If this is an emergency, why the 2 year delay?

These actions amplify what many in Oregon are feeling. Ever increasing taxes focusing on democratic priorities which don't align with many Oregonian's values. Representative Government is supposed to represent the will of the constituents, the voters, not the will of elected officials who seem to be driving their own agenda. As a tax-paying Oregonian for over 47 years, I've had enough. Taxes have increased. Services have decreased. Our schools rank at the lowest 10th percent in the nation. Business and long-time residents are fleeing Oregon for other states. Look what has happened to the city of Portland. Tax revenues are down, forcing cuts in services, due to policies enacted by the City of Portland. Our state is on the same path.

I'm VERY concerned about the short season which started today, attacking Oregon citizens with more taxes and infringement against our rights. My trust in the state government is VERY low, as it appears as though our legislature's actions are driving their agenda and NOT looking after the best interests of taxpayers in the state.

This has got to stop. If it continues, we will no longer have a state. I hope and pray that this is NOT the desired end-state of our legislatures.

Voters signed the referendum petition where it clearly states on the front page, in bold, that the election will be November 2026. Please honor what voters signed.

I strongly oppose SB 1599. Please VOTE NO.