

February 9, 2026

RE: SB 1599

Dear Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

It has been my experience that many members of the public do not fully understand, nor regularly participate in, primary elections. Additionally, voters who are not registered with a major political party are excluded from participating in Oregon's primary elections.

Voters who signed Referendum Petition 2026-302 did so with the reasonable expectation that it would appear on the November general election ballot, when all registered voters are eligible to participate. Moving the election date to the May primary would significantly limit voter participation and disenfranchise unaffiliated and non-major-party voters.

Changing the election date at this stage undermines public trust and is unfair to those who took time to engage in the democratic process with a clear understanding of when and how their voices would be heard.

If this measure does not appear on the November ballot, it risks eroding confidence in our electoral system and in government itself. For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB 1599.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Hollis

Oregon Resident