

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

More than 250,000 Oregonians signed petitions to refer this transportation tax hike to voters. Those petitions clearly stated the election date as November 3, 2026, when voter participation is highest and Oregonians across the state have the strongest voice.

If this transportation tax package is truly good policy, it should be able to stand on its own in a full general election. Efforts to move it to an off-cycle election only reinforce what many Oregonians already believe: this tax is unpopular, and voters deserve a fair, transparent vote.

Both parties have acknowledged that ODOT's budget can be balanced using existing resources. At a time when affordability is already strained, Oregonians have been clear, they do not want additional gas taxes quietly pushed through with limited public input.