

Submitter: Heather DeHart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1599. I personally helped with the referendum effort, and I am deeply disappointed that the Legislature is attempting to move this vote from the November general election to the May primary.

Oregonians followed the legal process, gathered the required signatures, and earned the right to have this measure decided by voters in November — when turnout is highest and participation is broadest. Moving the vote to May appears to limit voter participation on a major tax and fee issue and undermines confidence in the referendum process.

Regardless of where one stands on the policy itself, changing the election timeline after signatures have been certified sends the wrong message to citizens who engaged in good faith.

Additionally, even if SB 1599 does not include a direct appropriation, legislative time, staffing, and per diem costs are funded by taxpayers. Pursuing this bill uses public resources that could be spent elsewhere.

Please respect the voters and allow the referendum to proceed on the November ballot.