

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1599, which seeks to move the vote on the transportation tax referendum from the November 2026 general election to the May primary.

This proposal is an unnecessary disruption of the democratic process for several reasons:

* Suppression of Voter Turnout: Historically, voter turnout in primary elections is significantly lower than in general elections. Moving a high-stakes tax measure to a May primary effectively limits the number of Oregonians who will have a voice on this issue.

*Betrayal of Petitioner Intent: Over 250,000 Oregonians signed the referendum petition with the expectation that the vote would occur in November. Changing the date now is a "bait-and-switch" that ignores the clear preference of the voters who initiated this process.

*Concerns Over Election Integrity: Shifting dates for specific measures can be perceived as an attempt to "game the system" for a particular political outcome. To maintain public trust, the state should adhere to established election timelines rather than adjusting them based on immediate budgetary or political needs.

Oregonians deserve the opportunity to vote on this significant tax increase when participation is at its peak. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1599 and keep the referendum on the November 2026 ballot.

Respectfully,

Nicole Taylor