

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

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony to OPPOSE HB 1599. This bill overrides a valid citizen referendum and moves a statewide tax vote from the November general election—the election Oregonians were told they were signing for—to the May primary, where turnout is significantly lower and less representative.

Oregonians followed the constitutional process in good faith. Let it be known that public trust in this body has already declined, and moving a voter-referred measure to a low-turnout primary will erode it even further. Changing the election date after signatures were gathered signals that voter authority is conditional and can be altered whenever it becomes politically inconvenient. I genuinely do not understand how this continues to happen.

A tax measure of this scale should be decided by the broadest electorate, not a smaller, partisan subset. HB 1599 weakens trust and undermines the referendum power that exists specifically to check legislative overreach.

I urge you to reject HB 1599.

Thank you.