

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

Opposition statement. The “No Tax Referendum” was noted at the top to be voted on during the November 2026 ballot, yet the Oregon Legislature’s rush to pass Senate Bill 1599—shifting Referendum Petition 2026-302 to the low-turnout May 19 primary under an “emergency clause”—exposes partisan manipulation, not genuine crisis response. Leaders claim urgency over ODOT’s \$242 million shortfall, yet as of February 5, 2026, no bills address it directly; not one bill has been presented, such as amending HB 2017’s restrictive 6% maintenance cap or providing fiscal relief for this so-called “emergency.” Introduced measures like SB 1542 and SB 1543 are procedural, lacking immediate action, further proving that the Oregon Legislature is lacking an actual “emergency.” This selective “emergency” aims to disenfranchise voters, as the May primaries draw a lower turnout than in the November general election suppressing diverse voices. A real crisis would prompt substantive fixes, not ballot gamesmanship that erodes democratic trust. This is morally wrong and shouldn’t be allowed, as there is no “emergency.” The more than 250k voter voices were clear, we want this issue on the November ballot. Thank you.