

February 9, 2025

Dear Representatives, Senators and Committee Members,

My name is Michelle Reiner, and I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1599 and the proposed effort to move the public vote from the November general election to the May primary ballot.

This bill failed during the 2025 long legislative session, only to be pushed through during a so-called special session and then strategically delayed for a vote that all but guaranteed passage in alignment with the Governor's wishes and special-interest pressure. During the special session there was overwhelming public opposition to what amounts to a \$4.3 billion tax increase, yet the supermajority chose not to listen.

In response, voters from all political parties and from communities across the entire state united to gather more than 250,000 signatures in support of a referendum. I personally volunteered at a signature-gathering event at the Happy Valley Food Carts location and witnessed firsthand the breadth of opposition. Voters of every affiliation expressed gratitude that their voices were being represented. Many individuals even traveled from outside the immediate area, including from Portland, because they were unable to find accessible signing locations closer to home.

The current attempt to move the vote to the May primary ballot disregards the clear expectations set with voters. The petitions explicitly stated that the referendum would appear on the November ballot, and that commitment should be honored. Changing the timing now undermines transparency and erodes public trust in the legislative process.

Oregonians deserve a fair opportunity to have their voices heard during the November general election, when voter participation is highest and most representative of the state as a whole. Moving this measure to the May primary is wrong, and I strongly oppose both this substantial tax increase and any effort to alter the promised ballot timing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michelle Reiner