

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

I have been a 41 year member of the Oregon Fire service and am currently an elected board member for the fire service in Clackamas County. When the citizen initiative gathered signatures for the tax measure to be on the ballot in November, 2026, many local agencies (police, fire, schools) throughout Oregon decided to then use the May, 2026 election as an opportunity to have our local communities decide our local issues, without the conflicts or interference of having a major state tax issue on the same ballot. Two fire districts in Clackamas County then passed an ordinance to have an annexation measure put on the May ballot in addition to the Clackamas County Sherrifs now putting a levy issue on the May ballot. The Fire service and Firefighters in Oregon have supported many of you, especially the Democrats, and if you choose to disregard the will of the citizens in this case, who clearly petitioned to put their citizen initiative on the November ballot, you will forever ir repairably damage the support of those who have supported you. This is an easy easy decision. Leave the tax issue on the November ballot as it was intended to be by the voters of Oregon, and don't interfere with the local government agencies throughout the state, who in the meantime have chosen to use the May election to present to, and decide our local issues, by our citizens. Thank you.