

Submitter: Branegan Dixon
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Dear Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

I am writing as a registered Oregon voter and one of the more than 250,000 citizens

who signed Referendum Petition 2026-302 to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1599.

When I signed the petition, it clearly stated that the measure would appear on the November 2026 ballot. That was the explicit agreement: Oregonians would have their say in a high-turnout general election, ensuring maximum participation and fair representation. Changing the date now, after we qualified the referendum with our signatures, breaks that promise and undermines the people's reserved power of referendum under the Oregon Constitution.

This appears designed to suppress voices and make it easier for the tax increases to survive the challenge-rather than letting the broadest electorate decide.

Additionally:

1. It limits time for public education, debate, and submission of arguments to the Voters' Pamphlet.
2. It erodes trust in the referendum process, which belongs to the people-not to the legislators who may dislike the outcome.
3. Changing the date post-signature collection is unprecedented and raises serious concerns about fairness and constitutionality.

I urge the committee to reject SB 1599 and preserve the referendum on the November 2026 General Election ballot as promised. Let the people decide in the highest-turnout election possible, honoring the will of over 250,000 signers and all Oregon voters.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I encourage a full public process the respects voter access and democratic principles.

Sincerely,
Branegan Dixon