

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee;

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1599. SB 1599 would move the statewide vote on the transportation measure referred by petition to the May 2026 primary election. While this may appear administrative, the practical effect is to interfere with the referendum process and the rights reserved to the people under the Oregon Constitution.

Oregonians have a long and proud tradition of direct democracy. The referendum process is not a courtesy extended by the Legislature; it is a constitutional right belonging to the people. Any action that appears designed to alter timelines, change election dates, or otherwise affect the conditions under which a referred measure is voted on raises serious concerns about fairness and transparency.

It is also important to note that the official referendum signature sheets clearly stated that if enough valid signatures were gathered, the measure would be placed on the November ballot. That is the understanding voters had when they signed. Changing the election date after signatures have been collected undermines that representation and erodes trust in the process.

Sincerely,
Kristina West