

Submitter: Ryan Ouellette

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1599.

Moving a referred measure to the May primary election reduces overall voter participation compared to a general election. Primary elections consistently produce lower turnout, particularly among independent voters and those who are less politically engaged. When a matter has been referred to the people, it deserves to be decided under the highest possible level of public participation.

Changing the election date after a referral has already qualified creates the appearance of procedural maneuvering. Regardless of intent, that perception alone can undermine public trust in the process. Election timing should not advantage or disadvantage any side.

If voters are being asked to decide on legislation enacted in a special session, the decision should occur in the election that historically draws the broadest cross-section of Oregon voters.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1599.

Ryan Ouellette
Tualatin, Oregon