

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

I am a legal permanent resident living in Salem, Oregon. I submit this written testimony in opposition to SB 1599, which moves the election date for Referendum Petition 2026-302 to the May 19, 2026, primary election.

I strongly oppose this bill.

The measures referred to in this petition directly affect public programs and taxpayer funded services that many Oregon families, including working class and immigrant households, depend on for basic needs like food assistance and healthcare. Moving the vote to a primary election, which historically has much lower voter turnout than the general election, would reduce public participation and representation on issues of significant importance to Oregonians.

Voters deserve the highest possible turnout and the broadest opportunity to have their say on these changes. Keeping the referendum on the general election ballot ensures that more voices are heard, especially those of those most impacted by cuts to safety net programs.

Yingzhi chen  
Salem, Oregon