

The sequence of events is as follows:

A bill proposing a major increase in taxes and fees encountered over 95% public opposition, as demonstrated by the overwhelming volume of citizen testimony submitted against it.

Despite this unmistakable rejection, the bill was passed during a specially called emergency session.

It then remained unsigned on the Governor's desk for an extended period.

Citizens exercised their constitutional right to petition for a referendum, seeking to place the question before voters in the November general election. The petition succeeded overwhelmingly, collecting far more valid signatures than required in a short time. This further proved the depth of public opposition.

Rather than allow the people's clearly expressed will to be decided by voters in November, repeated efforts have been made to prevent or weaken that vote:

- First, attempts were made to repeal the original bill.
- When repeal failed, the strategy shifted to moving the referendum question from the November general election to the May primary election.

Placing the referendum in the May primary would force the vote during a low-turnout election in which many of the bill's original supporters are not standing for reelection, significantly reducing direct voter accountability on this issue.

These actions (enacting the bill despite overwhelming opposition, delaying signature, attempting repeal after the petition's success, and now attempting to relocate the referendum to a lower-turnout election) form a clear and consistent pattern of resisting and circumventing the will of the people.

We, the citizens who signed the petition and all who value representative democracy, strongly oppose moving the referendum to the May primary ballot.

We respectfully demand that the people's overwhelming opposition (first shown through over 95% rejection in testimony and then confirmed by an extraordinarily successful referendum petition) be respected by keeping the question on the November general election ballot, where the broadest possible voter participation can occur.