

Submitter: Mea Anders
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Greetings legislators and fellow Oregonians,

My name is Mea Honor Anders, and I write in opposition to SB 1599 (2026).

I oppose moving the referendum election date because it is voter disenfranchisement.

I am employed in elections administration. I have over a decade of knowledge and experience in this area of public service. As an Oregon voter myself, I deeply care about the voter's right to have a voice in their communities and strive to exemplify it in my duties as a public servant.

Unfortunately, this is not always reflected in Oregon's executive and legislative branches. I remember the statewide January 23, 2018 special election, also a referendum on a tax. I remember the telephone calls and e-mails from voters trying to get an absentee ballot in time or voters expressing the unfairness in holding an election *outside of what was expected.*

If this is truly an emergency in the eyes of the politicians, the majority party and the governor need to have acted like it. Instead, there was delay upon partisan delay – the most blatant being Governor Tina Kotek's evident choice to stall on signing the bill in order to hamper any referendum petition effort.

Again, I cannot in good conscience endorse switching up the election date to May from November at the expense of eroding the rights of government's boss – the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Mea Honor Anders