

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

Good day, Legislators,

I am opposed to the Legislature moving the date of the Referendum. Our Constitution ensures that Oregonians, all of us, have the right to vote on new taxes. Politics of the original legislation seem to have missed that. We wish to exercise that authority granted to us by our Constitution. Playing politics to move the Referendum to a lower turnout election intentionally disenfranchises voters. Our State is better than that. I ask that you as leaders do what is right and oppose this bill. Our leaders proudly tout our State's open, free and fair elections. You cannot have it both ways, either we have open, free and fair elections/referendums and let the people decide in November as we excised our authority to, or you play politics and erode Oregonians trust in our treasured referendum process and elections as a whole. As leaders the choice is yours and that choice will live forever in history as the date our leaders stood up for the rights of Oregonians to exercise direct democracy, or the day that the foundation of the Referendum process began to crumble. This is not about what date the referendum repeals the original bill, opposing this bill is voting to maintain Oregonians right to direct democracy in the highest and purest form. That should not and cannot become a political debate.

Respectfully,
Cody Smith