

Madam Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair House Drazan Vice Chair Holvey and committee members,

My name is Janice Dysinger, with Oregonians for Fair Election

We oppose HB3291 as amended.

All ballots need to be in the Elections office on Election day. It would be better to focus on telling people to get their ballots in the mail at least 5 days earlier as the 2 studies about the post office linked below require. They show the post office need 2-5 days for 1st class mail to process the ballot. They treat ballots as 1st class mail per the study. If the Post office recommends another time go with that. Afterwards the voter can get the ballot to a drop box.

Still the study show 93% success rate with the post office. That leave a 7% problem.

I agree with Mr. Scott that the local post office is trying hard and doing a good job. Still it is out of control of the Election Division.

We don't need to rearrange the whole election calendar for the (600-900) people just in Multnomah County and others around the state. Mr. Scott pointed out that are getting their ballots in late. These people need to take responsibility to get their ballots in on time.

We must protect the election from fraud, including any effort to overcome an election result by late arriving ballots, such as what happened in 2020 in Michigan.

We oppose subsequent result announcements of the late arriving ballots before they are all in. This process tends to help those who are trying to game the system for close election results.

We also oppose removing the ballots from their envelopes early. Currently we have a 7 day window to process the opening of the ballots. That is earlier than we would like, but certainly no sooner. We would suggest that there needs to be more opening boards to process these ballots if more

help is needed. Citizens believe their ballots are best protected inside the envelopes until the closest time to election day.

All ballots need to be in on election day. It is not just candidates that want results from the election on election night or in a day or so after. It is the Citizens who don't want to wait 3 more weeks to know the outcome of the election.

Additional references:

USPS Service Performance of Election and Political Mail During the November 2020 General Election

USPS report: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2021/20-318-R21.pdf>

NPR Postal Service Delivered Vast Majority Of Mail Ballots On Time, Report Finds

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/09/975198962/postal-service-delivered-vast-majority-of-mail-ballots-on-time-report-finds>

The report says the Postal Service processed almost 134 million pieces of election mail — ballots and voter registration materials — sent to and by voters from Sept. 1 through Nov. 3. Of that, 93.8% was delivered on time to meet the agency's service standard for first class mail of two to five days.

Candidate materials were at 91% delivered on time.

That's an increase improvement of 11% from the 2018 midterm elections. It's also, the inspector general noted, 5.6% better than on-time delivery rates for all first class mail, a standard the Postal Service has not met for five years. The Post Office's goal for on-time delivery of first class mail is 96%.

We oppose HB3291

We also opposed similar efforts to allow late arriving ballots as in HB2226 and HB2687.

Thank you!

Janice Dysinger  
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