

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Oregon Bill SB210 represents a critical step toward ensuring the integrity of elections by emphasizing the verification of U.S. citizenship and state residency, alongside promoting in-person voting with ID requirements. Verifying citizenship is fundamental to upholding the democratic principle that only eligible U.S. citizens participate in choosing their leaders, preventing potential dilution of lawful votes. Confirming residency ensures that voters have a genuine stake in Oregon's governance, tying electoral influence to those directly impacted by state policies. In-person voting with ID requirements further strengthens this system by providing a straightforward, secure method to confirm identity, reducing opportunities for fraud and enhancing public trust in election outcomes. Conversely, mail-in voting, while convenient, introduces vulnerabilities. Ballots sent through the mail can be intercepted, misplaced, or submitted by unauthorized individuals, with limited oversight to verify authenticity. Historical examples, like documented cases of ballot harvesting or coercion in other states, highlight how mail-in systems can be exploited, especially without robust safeguards. Oregon's all-mail voting system, though efficient, lacks the immediate accountability of in-person verification, potentially undermining confidence if errors—like the recent accidental registration of noncitizens via the DMV—occur. SB210's focus on secure, verifiable voting methods offers a balanced approach to protect democracy while addressing these risks.