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On Behalf Of:	Oregon taxpayers
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB210

Oregon Senate Bill 210 is a forward-thinking reform that modernizes and secures our elections by making in-person voting on Election Day the standard method, while requiring valid government-issued identification to vote or request a ballot. This legislation, wisely referred to the people for approval at the next general election, empowers Oregonians to reclaim confidence in their electoral process through transparency, accountability, and a renewed commitment to democratic integrity.

A cornerstone of SB 210 is its emphasis on election security. By requiring voters to present valid government-issued ID—whether voting in person or requesting a mail ballot—the bill ensures that only eligible electors participate, protecting the sanctity of each vote. Voter ID is a common-sense safeguard already in place in dozens of states and countries, proven to prevent fraud without disenfranchising legitimate voters. Coupled with the shift to in-person voting as the norm, this measure creates a verifiable, observable process that reduces the risks of lost, stolen, or manipulated ballots inherent in a mail-based system.

SB 210 also restores Election Day as a meaningful civic ritual. Voting in person fosters a shared sense of purpose, bringing Oregonians together to exercise their rights as a community. While the bill preserves vote-by-mail as an option for those unable to vote in person—such as military and overseas voters, or those with out-of-state addresses—it rightly prioritizes the security and immediacy of in-person voting for the majority. Requiring all ballots to be returned by Election Day further ensures timely, conclusive results, eliminating the uncertainty of late-arriving mail votes. Critics may point to convenience, but SB 210 strikes a practical balance. It retains mail voting for those who truly need it, while removing the state's obligation to pay return postage—a fair adjustment that encourages personal responsibility without imposing undue burdens. In-person voting can be made accessible through ample polling sites, extended hours, and support for those with mobility challenges, as seen in states nationwide.

Convenience should not come at the expense of confidence in our elections. By referring this Act to the people, SB 210 exemplifies democracy in action. Oregonians deserve a direct say in how their elections are conducted, and this bill trusts voters to decide what's best for their state. It's a chance to affirm that secure, transparent elections matter more than ever in an age of skepticism about democratic institutions. Oregon SB 210 isn't just a policy change—it's a statement of principle. It prioritizes election integrity, voter verification, and civic engagement, offering a system Oregonians can trust. At the next general election, supporting this bill means

supporting a stronger, more accountable democracy.

SB 210 offers large potential tax payer savings in postage as well.

#### Current Costs (Pre-SB 210)

Voters receiving ballots: 3,000,000. (Number from AP research).

Outbound postage:  $3,000,000 \times \$0.73 = \$2,190,000$ .

Returned ballots by mail:  $3,000,000 \times 60\% \text{ turnout} \times 40\% \text{ mail return} = 720,000$  ballots.

Return postage:  $720,000 \times \$0.73 = \$525,600$ .

Total postage cost per election:  $\$2,190,000 + \$525,600 = \$2,715,600$ .

Biennial cost (2 elections):  $\$2,715,600 \times 2 = \$5,431,200$ .

#### Costs Under SB 210

Voters requesting ballots: 300,000. (Deployed military, handicapped, out-of-state voters)

Outbound postage:  $300,000 \times \$0.73 = \$219,000$ .

Returned ballots by mail:  $300,000 \times 40\% = 120,000$ .

Return postage (state-paid for 1% exempt voters):  $30,000 \times \$0.73 = \$21,900$ .

Total postage cost per election:  $\$219,000 + \$21,900 = \$240,900$ .

Biennial cost (2 elections):  $\$240,900 \times 2 = \$481,800$ .

#### Postage Cost Savings

Biennial savings:  $\$5,431,200 - \$481,800 = \$4,949,400$ .

Annual savings:  $\$4,949,400 \div 2 = \$2,474,700$ .

No matter how SB210 is assessed, it's a win-win for Oregon residents and Oregon's budget. Effective, fair, and fiduciarly responsible