

Submitter: Jasmyne Schierbaum  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

As a proud Oregon voter, I strongly oppose any attempt to dismantle our state's pioneering vote-by-mail system. This system has become a cornerstone of Oregon's democratic process since its implementation, serving as a model for accessible and equitable elections nationwide.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system ensures that every eligible voter can participate in our democracy, regardless of their work schedule, mobility challenges, or geographical location. Having moved here from a state without mail-in voting, I can personally attest that Oregon's approach represents the gold standard for informed civic participation.

Repealing our vote-by-mail system would create unnecessary barriers to voting. Many hardworking Oregonians cannot afford to take time off work to stand in long lines at polling places during limited hours. Parents with childcare responsibilities, individuals with disabilities, rural residents who live far from polling stations, and those who rely on public transportation would be disproportionately disadvantaged. Furthermore, our current system promotes thoughtful, educated voting decisions. With ballot measures and voter guides delivered directly to our homes, Oregonians have the opportunity to carefully research candidates and issues at their kitchen tables. We can thoroughly review complex ballot measures, research candidates' positions, and make informed choices without the pressure of a polling booth line. The evidence clearly demonstrates that vote-by-mail increases voter participation, reduces administrative costs, and maintains electoral integrity. Oregon has consistently ranked among the states with the highest voter turnout precisely because we've removed unnecessary obstacles to democratic participation. At its core, this proposed repeal represents an attempt to silence the voices of everyday Oregonians. It's a solution in search of a problem that would only serve to make voting more difficult and less accessible.

I urge you to protect Oregon's democratic tradition and reject this misguided attempt to dismantle our effective, efficient, and equitable vote-by-mail system.