

Submitter: Adam Sunshine
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210, a bill that would make in-person voting on the date of an election the standard method for conducting an election. While I understand the importance of ensuring secure and fair elections, I believe that this bill overlooks several critical issues and could undermine the accessibility and convenience of voting for many individuals.

Disenfranchisement of Vulnerable Populations

Making in-person voting the standard method for elections would disproportionately affect groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and individuals who live in rural areas with limited access to polling places. For many, physically traveling to a polling location on Election Day is not feasible, and this bill would place a significant burden on their ability to exercise their right to vote.

Public Health Concerns

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how essential it is to offer multiple voting methods to ensure the health and safety of voters. By restricting voting to in-person only, this bill could expose individuals to health risks, particularly during times of emergency or public health crises. Offering absentee ballots and other alternatives provides a safe and secure way for individuals to vote without compromising public health.

Increased Costs and Logistics

Transitioning to a system that solely relies on in-person voting would require significant investment in expanding polling locations, ensuring adequate staffing, and providing additional security measures. These changes would place an undue financial burden on state and local governments, diverting resources away from other critical public services.

Encouraging Voter Participation

The flexibility of absentee and early voting options has been proven to increase voter participation. Many individuals may find it difficult to vote on a single day due to work, family obligations, or other personal circumstances. By eliminating alternatives to in-person voting, we risk reducing voter turnout, especially among those who need flexibility.

Technological Advancements in Voting

The ability to vote remotely, whether through mail-in ballots or other secure digital means, is part of an evolving trend in election systems designed to enhance accessibility. While in-person voting will always remain a crucial part of our democratic process, it is important to adapt and expand voting options to ensure that all citizens can participate in elections, regardless of their circumstances.

In conclusion, SB 210 would restrict voter access, disenfranchise vulnerable groups, and create unnecessary logistical challenges. I urge you to reconsider this bill and explore options that expand voting access for all citizens, rather than limiting it to a single method.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Adam Sunshine