

Submitter: Tobi Walker  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

As a voter for over fifty years, I oppose SB210.

This bill is a deliberate attempt to disenfranchise voters by imposing unnecessary barriers to participation. Restricting voting to in-person on Election Day disproportionately impacts individuals who face challenges such as work schedules, caregiving responsibilities, disabilities, or lack of transportation. Forcing those who cannot reach the polls in person over the additional hurdle of requesting absentee ballots is the opposite of accommodation. SB210 undermines the principle of equal access to the ballot box.

The justification for SB210 is rooted in a false narrative that questions the integrity of existing voting methods. However, there is no credible evidence to suggest widespread issues with the way Oregon has voted since 1998. By forcing individuals to request absentee ballots, SB210 risks creating a registry of voters who face barriers to in-person voting. This opens the door to potential misuse of such data, further eroding trust in the electoral process and compromising voter privacy. This response to fearmongering wastes resources and erodes public trust in the electoral process.

SB210 is not about improving elections; it's about consolidating power. By making voting more difficult, it serves the interests of an anti-democratic movement within our government, seeking to suppress dissent and maintain control. This bill prioritizes political gain over the democratic values of inclusivity and fairness and threatens to unravel the inclusive and fair elections that define our state.

During my fifty-year voting history, I have voted in-person, by absentee ballot and using Oregon's mail-in system. I find Oregon's voting system superior in every way. Please don't let the false narrative presented by its proponents destroy our democratic, electoral process.

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