

Submitter: Karlie Bullis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I will begin simply with this: enforcing in-person voting greatly diminishes turnout among the working class and as such CANNOT be allowed to replace the mail-in system.

Unless and until election day is made a federal holiday, as it is in many developed countries, requiring all voters to show up in person will disenfranchise those who cannot afford to take time off. Those with vast financial means are already well represented in politics, even in Oregon, and this bill serves only to further the social stratification of the voting public by class. If you truly care about the average American, someone who is one paycheck away from complete financial ruin, you will not allow this bill to pass. We cannot allow the backbone of our communities, of our industries, of our society as a whole, to be excluded from civic participation.

Consider that we chafe at the reminder that, for a not insignificant part of our history, only the land owning elite were allowed a voice. Surely, most of us find that to be unethical and antiquated. This bill, however, will essentially return us to that standard. If our votes only matter to you if we exist in a particular income bracket, then have the courage to come right out and say it to us. Say that to the people that run your grocery stores, your post offices, your unemployment offices, your schools. Tell your teachers that, while you spend great amounts of time lauding their sacrifice and hard work, that you have no interest in actually providing for them or hearing their concerns. Tell your healthcare workers that, despite the flowery language used to prop them up during the COVID-19 pandemic in lieu of actual support, you have no interest in hearing their voice.

If you genuinely endorse a move to exclusive in-person voting, you have decided that only the able-bodied, affluent retired are your constituents. You have decided to speak not for Oregon, nor for all Oregonians, but for a select few based upon their financial standing rather than their place of residence.

And if, as I suspect, the argument is that moving to in-person voting will allegedly “prevent voter fraud;” consider the fact that Oregon has never in its history had that issue. If this is truly your motivation, you have chosen to bark at shadows. Voter fraud is not, despite your posturing, an issue in Oregon. Let us also consider that the current administration has previously proposed making it impossible for those whose names do not match their birth certificates—married women being the primary victims of this law—to participate in elections. No amount of denial will change the fact that a move toward in-person voting, for this reason or others, will allow for federal

oversight to push that agenda in Oregon when we have loudly opposed it.

Do not allow our state to be compromised, do not allow our state to be bullied or strongarmed. We Oregonians have a rich tradition of fair and free elections, run by mail, with strong turnout. Our values align with one person, one vote, REGARDLESS of economic status. Stand by your constituents, stand by the people of Oregon, stand by the working class. None of us are heard unless ALL of us are heard.

Thank you.