

Submitter:

Kianna Ober

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Do not continue with SBO 210. It takes away access for citizens to access the ballot and make their voices heard. This parrots the national anti-mail in ballot sentiment and leaves local voters high and dry.

My husband and I have been very pleased with the vote by mail system. We've lived in Oregon nearly 20 years. Being able to sit down at the kitchen table and take our time going through materials so we can make an informed vote without rushing is so valuable to us. It's a wonderful way to give our kids - the future voters of Oregon - a good look at how we make decisions and how we get to use our voice freely.

The bill as it stands will not provide proper access to ballots. In my county, Washington County, we have around 400,000 electors. SBO 210 states that only 1 voting BOOTH shall be made available for every 20,000 electors PER COUNTY. Friends, for our area, that's about 20 booths. Washington County is spread over a wide area. It includes several cities and very populated unincorporated territories. This county covers 724.3 square miles of land area and is the 31st largest county in Oregon by total area. To reach my county office, I have to drive a town over if the booths are located there. If they're split between various places across the county - that's just a few booths per so many residents. There will be back up, access problems and frustrations. Voices will not be heard. Votes will not be counted. Even if this part of the bill is amended, it's still going to be a deterrent. This bill will prevent and deter valid votes. Proving the idea that Oregon doesn't actually care about what voters actually think.

Plus, adding unnecessary ID regulations just adds hurdles that are not needed. I am not concerned about people who are not eligible to vote here somehow registering to vote. Our current system works. Adding these kinds of ID laws are KNOWN to have a negative impact of voters from disadvantaged communities.

Please make this bill dead in the water. Don't let the aggressive political bullying about in-person voting by the current administration push Oregon around.

Thank you.