

Submitter:

Jenessa Stemke

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill 210 which would repeal mail-in voting and require in-person voting in Oregon.

If weather makes driving difficult on the day of voting, the outcome of the election comes down to who is able to get to the polls, who has time to stand in line, who is not working or otherwise occupied that day. In rural areas, people would have to drive long distances to get to the polling place.

If passed, this bill removes a requirement that the state pay postage for ballots returned by mail, which will shift postage costs onto individual voters. This disenfranchises voters, who then have to go get stamps or find their stamps (let's be honest, stamps aren't just hanging around people's homes these days because mailing has become less frequent, but is still more convenient than everyone in town driving to the polling place, waiting in line for hours, and disrupting traffic). The state can pay for bulk mailing much more effectively than individuals ensuring they have stamps. And people will forget or be unaware they now need to put postage on the envelope after years of not having to put stamps on their envelopes.

[(a) In each county with 35,000 or more electors in the county, the county clerk shall maintain a number of voting booths equal to at least one voting booth for every 20,000 electors in the county; and] [(b) In each county with fewer than 35,000 electors in the county, the county clerk shall maintain at least one voting booth.]

One voting booth per 20,000 electors is NOWHERE near sufficient for allowing people to complete their vote, especially if voting occurs on one day. This bill disenfranchises voters and I do not support this going to a vote or being put on the ballot for the people of Oregon to vote on. It is a waste of taxpayer money to have this discussion or put it on the ballot. People of Oregon will not vote for in-person voting.