

Submitter:

Melissa Proctor

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Voting by mail is an Oregonian institution presently and should continue to be a commonly accepted method of making our voices heard. Our daily lives are already hectic, and having elections on a work day naturally limits - outright excludes in many cases - those who work in industries where they cannot take any time off without losing vitally needed pay. I am one of Oregon's lucky children. I grew up in poverty and I remember my parents being thankful for the opportunity to vote after they were off work, when polling places were closed. Yes, I remember them voting by mail in the 80s and 90s. I have worked hard and attended college to better my financial and employment opportunities in life and I no longer would have to risk my paycheck in order to vote in person. That is not the case for too many other constituents of this great state. Stand for what is right, what is Democratic, and what is at the very core of being American: keep our Voting Opportunities available to all who can legally cast their votes.

If changes must happen, make access easier for registered voters, not harder. Make registering a voter an automatic action that is taken on behalf OF citizens, not BY them i.e. when they are born, they have a voter number assigned as an example. Speak for your constituents, not for the 1%, hiding behind their money while the rest of us scream in outrage. Mail in voting has had strong support from both Democrats and Republicans, but most importantly, it has had overwhelming support by all Voters, not just those affiliated with the main two parties. All voters. Also, do NOT adopt the mandate that birth certificates must match IDs for proof of identity. This truly only targets women and trans individuals. As a woman, wife, and mother of a trans person, this criteria is horrifying to me. In addition, marriage is already on the decline in this country and the requirement for birth certificate to match ID will influence many women to never marry. After all, taking one's husband's name is a cultural mandate in its own right. Fascism is anti-American. Control isn't freedom. Bullying is not protection. This change to our voting methods would be bullying to all those who cannot take the time to appear in person to vote. Our rural voters. Our military members. Our service workers. Our doctors and nurses. Keep our state a great place to live, work, and raise families, please. Vote NO on this measure.