

Submitter: Vicki Darden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

March 29, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

To the Committee Members:

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 210, making in-person voting on the day of the election the only means of voting in the State of Oregon. Since 1998, citizens in Oregon have had the right to vote by mail, making us the first state in the country to conduct voting exclusively by mail. It has made it possible for many more people to exercise their constitutional rights as citizens than in-person voting would.

Eliminating vote-by-mail will serve to exclude a great number of citizens from the voting process, including the disabled and elderly who may not be physically able to go to a polling place, or people who may not be able to take time from work to vote on Election Day. Vote-by-mail does not deprive people who wish to vote at an election site on Election Day from doing so, as anyone can go to their County Clerk's office and vote in person there.

As a self-employed professional, my work often requires that I work long shifts, frequently out-of-town. This would prevent me from going to my assigned polling place on voting day, or would require me to lose pay and deprive my clients from receiving my services.

Oregon has a long history of effective and efficient voting through the U.S. Postal Service. It allows a greater number of Oregonians to participate in civic life and exercise their constitutional rights. Its citizens deserve to be able to continue to do so.

As an Oregon voter, I strongly urge you to vote against SB210.

Sincerely,
Vicki Darden, Ph.D.