

Submitter:

Barbara Stevenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am opposed to SB 210.

This bill would make it more difficult for Oregonians to vote. Requiring people to come in person to vote makes it harder for the elderly, people with disabilities, people with limited access to transportation, and people who work to exercise their right to vote.

When I moved to Oregon more than 25 years ago I found voting by mail strange. I have come to love the process - sitting with my ballot & the voter handbook, researching candidates & issues using the book and online resources, marking my vote while that information is fresh in my brain.

I feel that Oregon's vote by mail system is secure. People are registered to vote when they first get a driver's license - the same ID they will need to produce to vote in person. While our mail system is not as reliable as it used to be, if a person does not receive a ballot they can request another one. I choose to return my ballot at a ballot box, so as not to risk mis-directed return mail. That is my choice because, again, the postal system is not as efficient as it used to be.

The important words here are *my choice*. Voting by mail gives people choices in how and when they complete the voting process. Requiring in-person voting removes choice in timing and location of voting.

Requiring in-person voting might also result in efforts to gerrymander Oregon's legislative districts.

The vote by mail system we have has worked well for decades. It provides a secure, convenient way for Oregonians to vote. It's not broken. We don't need to change it. Again, I am opposed to SB 210.