

Submitter:

Catherine Schooley

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to strongly oppose any efforts to restrict or eliminate Oregon's proven and successful mail-in voting system. As a resident of Oregon, I believe that our mail-in voting process is a model of accessibility, security, and voter engagement that should be protected.

Oregon's mail-in voting system has consistently increased voter participation across all demographics. Since its adoption in 2000, turnout rates have remained among the highest in the nation. The ability to receive, complete, and return a ballot by mail ensures that voters who face barriers to in-person voting—including seniors, working parents, rural residents, and those with disabilities—can still have their voices heard. This system has eliminated obstacles like long lines, restrictive polling hours, and travel concerns, empowering more citizens to participate in the democratic process.

Equally important, Oregon's mail-in voting system is highly secure. Each ballot envelope requires a verified signature, which is carefully matched against voter registration records. Voter rolls are maintained and updated through collaboration with government agencies to prevent inaccuracies. Post-election audits provide an additional layer of security, ensuring results are accurate and trustworthy. These safeguards have resulted in an extremely low rate of voter fraud—demonstrating that mail-in voting is both safe and reliable.

Moreover, this system has proven to be nonpartisan, serving voters of all political affiliations equally. Multiple studies have shown that mail-in voting does not advantage any party; rather, it expands access for everyone. This inclusiveness strengthens Oregon's democracy by ensuring that all voices are heard.

Eliminating or restricting mail-in voting would undermine a system that has successfully served Oregonians for over two decades. Such changes would create unnecessary barriers to participation and disenfranchise thousands of voters who rely on this trusted method.

I urge you to oppose any legislation that would weaken Oregon's mail-in voting system. This process is an essential component of our democracy, and preserving it is vital to ensuring fair, accessible elections for all citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.