

Submitter:

Michael Ngo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Statement of support for this measure.

The core tenet of our form of government—a democracy—is that citizens are empowered to choose their elected leaders through the process of voting. If drivers are required to present a driver's license as proof they've passed the test for the privilege of driving on public roads, why are voters not required to do the same, in what is arguably a matter of greater significance? Shouldn't we, as Americans, be grateful for the fact that our Constitution empowers us to elect our government officials?

Just like driving, the act of voting should be held in the same esteem as a privilege, not a right. Not everyone who lives in America is entitled to vote. Some examples of this include individuals who are below the eligible voting age, criminals, or anyone else whose actions demonstrate that they should not be eligible to participate in the election process.

While voting by mail provides greater convenience for voters, it also allows opportunities for people who should not be allowed to vote. Additionally, as a byproduct, voting by mail has watered down our sense of appreciation and respect for the voting process.

By requiring in-person voting with photo ID, we as fellow constituents of our democracy will reverse this erosion with the requirement of showing up. After all, isn't that what makes America exceptional? Those who choose to show up in life get out what they put in. Why would we choose to live in America if we did not believe it is the best country in the world?