

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Requiring in-person voting only and only on election day would be borderline catastrophic for eastern Oregonians. Many of us live 10, 20 or more miles away from town centers, libraries, etc., where polling places are/would be. I personally live 18 miles away from the nearest town hall (Halfway) - 32 miles round trip. Imagine being forced to drive in the middle of a snow storm that far just to vote - especially if you are elderly (and we have a LOT of elderly people in eastern Oregon)! This is further exacerbated by the lack of public transit in most parts of eastern Oregon.

The simple fact that this disproportionately negatively affects eastern Oregonians means it also disproportionately negatively affects Republicans. While I'm not a supporter of most Republican policies (even though I live in a "red" area), I strongly believe the right to vote applies to EVERYONE, and any attempt to restrict, limit, hinder or otherwise discourage ANYONE from voting is not only unconstitutional, but also un-American.

Oregon's vote by mail system has worked excellently for literal decades. It saves counties and states money. It is safe and encourages greater civic engagement. It is convenient for working parents, elderly, handicapped, college students, executives ... everyone!

I strongly oppose SB210 and hope you keep Oregon's mail-in voting system intact.