

Submitter:

Kelsey Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose Oregon Bill SB210, which seeks to make in-person voting the norm for Oregon elections. This bill undermines the very principles of accessibility and inclusivity that are fundamental to a thriving democracy.

First, requiring in-person voting disproportionately burdens marginalized communities, including those with disabilities, elderly voters, and people living in rural areas. Many of these individuals already face significant barriers to accessing polling places, which could disenfranchise them and limit their participation in the democratic process.

Second, making in-person voting the standard increases the risk of voter suppression. Long lines, limited polling locations, and unnecessary logistical challenges can intimidate and discourage voters from casting their ballots. In a time when voter participation should be encouraged, this bill represents a step backward in ensuring equal access to voting for all Oregonians.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject SB210 and preserve the accessibility and convenience of mail-in voting, which has proven to be an effective and equitable way for Oregonians to exercise their right to vote.