Voting by mail in Oregon has come under fire for alleged "voter fraud." According to the conservative right wing think tank The Heritage Foundation, there has been only 17 cases of voter fraud in Oregon since 2000. Oregon has a little over 4.25 million people, with about 3 million voters. Being one of the few states with over 70% turnout in general elections, that's roughly 2 million active voters give or take.

For comparison, Kentucky, where I grew up, lacks standard vote by mail we take for granted in Oregon. The turnout for the election in Kentucky in 2024 was 56%. That's 14% lower turnout for a presidential election. 56% doesn't event form a 60% supermajority in most forums, it's just 7% over constituting a majority of the registered voters.

I suspect the reason why our standardized vote by mail shows consistently higher turnouts is due to a couple factors, but mainly convenience. You don't have to alter your schedule. No calling off work, no waking up early or stopping by a highschool on your commute home. You don't need to figure out childcare while you vote or bring you kid(s) with you. You don't need to wait in lines that are sometimes long just to cast a vote. No need to use a machine for a long time to vote in each race. You don't need to be informed ahead of time of the election. You don't need to drive more than 5 miles to the nearest polling station.

Who knows what the average drive a voter in Harney county may have to vote in person? I imagine it will be far more than the average in Multnomah.

In contrast, your ballot comes in the mail, you complete it when you want if you want. You mail it back after signing it. The ballot comes with an informational booklet with candidate information so you don't need to memorize names when you vote, if you forgot or didn't keep up with politics, then the information is right there with your ballot.

Finally: it's more efficient. We don't need as many expensive voting machines deployed all across the state, with volunteers or paid state employees coordinating each voting site and the physical transport of ballots. Instead we leverage the already wonderfully efficient Post Office which funds its pensions 75 years in advance in full (something no private company does and arguably the Post Office shouldn't need to do). Colorado saved 40% on running elections when they swapped to standardized vote by mail. Montana would save $2 million by switching to standardized vote by mail. We estimate a 33% to 50% savings by choosing standardized vote by mail. We

already pay enough in taxes for some inefficient systems. Why ruin the current efficient and cost effective system we have?