

Submitter: Don Seil
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Testimony in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 210

Submitted on March 29, 2025

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 210, a bold and necessary reform to strengthen the integrity, security, and trustworthiness of Oregon's election system. As an Oregonian committed to ensuring our democratic process remains transparent and reliable, I believe this legislation addresses critical needs in our state's voting framework.

SB 210's requirement for in-person voting on Election Day as the standard method (Section 1) restores a sense of civic unity and accountability to the voting process. By making Election Day the focal point of participation, with exceptions for absentee ballots under strict conditions (Section 2), this bill ensures that voting remains a deliberate and verifiable act. The provision requiring voters to present valid government-issued photo identification (Section 3) is a commonsense safeguard that aligns Oregon with practices in many other states and countries, protecting against fraud while being straightforward to implement given the widespread availability of IDs.

Additionally, the elimination of automatic mail-in ballots (Section 4) addresses legitimate concerns about ballot security and chain-of-custody issues that have eroded public confidence in recent years. By requiring voters to request absentee ballots and verify their identity (Section 5), SB 210 strikes a balanced approach—preserving access for those who genuinely need it, such as deployed military members or individuals with disabilities, while reducing opportunities for error or misuse.

Oregon has a proud history of innovation, but innovation must evolve with the times. SB 210 modernizes our elections by prioritizing security and voter trust without sacrificing accessibility. The bill's provisions are practical, equitable, and responsive to the growing demand for a system Oregonians can believe in. I urge you to support this legislation and move it forward to a vote.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Seil
Salem, Oregon