

Submitter: Laura Hanks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon while limiting vote-by-mail options and imposing stringent identification requirements. I believe this bill undermines the accessibility and inclusivity that have been the hallmarks of Oregon's electoral system for decades. I object to the following provisions of the bill:

Reduced Accessibility: Mandating in-person voting as the default method disproportionately affects individuals with disabilities, elderly voters, those with demanding work schedules, and residents in rural areas who may face challenges reaching polling stations. The current vote-by-mail system accommodates these voters effectively, ensuring that all Oregonians have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.?

Voter Identification Requirements: The bill's requirement for voters to present valid government-issued identification when voting in person or requesting a mail-in ballot introduces unnecessary barriers. Studies have shown that such requirements can disenfranchise eligible voters, particularly among marginalized communities who may lack the specified forms of ID.?

Elimination of State-Paid Postage: Removing the provision for state-paid postage on mail-in ballots places an additional burden on voters that could deter participation, especially among low-income individuals.?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Laura Hanks