

Submitter: Jeremy Mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

SB 210 is bad for Oregonians - SB 210 would create undue hardships on the the majority of Oregon voters. In-person voting in an archaic way of casting a vote in the United States. Approximately 3/5 of Oregon is home to rural residents who don't live near a voting station making them difficult to access for many. Mail in voting is a great alternative for people who would otherwise have to commute a long distance, people who work, have families and/or take care of elderly parents, or who have physical disabilities preventing them from voting in person. Voting by mail should be default; voters should not have to elect to receive absentee ballots or request special accommodations. Mail in voting doesn't impact those who choose not to utilize it.

SB 210 will reduce voter turn out. Eliminating mail in voting will make it more difficult for Oregonians to vote. Consider the amount of income that will be lost with people missing work to go waste a day standing in a voting line. While the cost of goods and services is so high right now the average family can not afford to miss a day of work. Supporters of SB 210 want one thing, to suppress Oregon voters. SB 210 favors the wealthy and those who have the means and ability to drive and show up in person to vote.

There are no good arguments in support of SB 210. Oregon consistently has low voter fraud and has a multitude of security measures in place to ensure voters are in compliance with state law.

An argument those in support of SB 210 like to use is "ballot security." Oregonians who don't trust their ballots being mails still have the option to vote in person or deliver their ballots in person; allowing vote by mail doesn't infringe on anyone's right to still vote in person if you like. There is no good reason to pass SB 210 unless your goal is to suppress voters and reduce voter turn out.

Vote-by-mail in Oregon has maintained a high level of support since it was passed in 1998. A survey done in 2003 by Dr. Priscilla Southwell, a professor of Political Science at University of Oregon, shows that 81% of respondents favored the vote-by-mail system while 19% favored traditional voting at poll booths. The poll also shows high favorability among registered Democrats (85%) and registered Republicans (76%) alike. Thirty percent of respondents said they voted more often since vote-by-mail was enacted. The evidence is clear that voting by mail has bipartisan support and is favored by the majority of Oregonians. SB 210 doesn't not represent what Oregonians want.

Please vote NO on SB 210.