

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Oregon has been a pioneer in the implementation of a statewide vote-by-mail system. This method of conducting elections has proven to be successful in promoting greater voter participation, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has demonstrated numerous benefits including:

1. **Increased Voter Participation:** Vote by mail increases voter turnout by reducing barriers such as transportation, work schedules, and other factors that may hinder citizens from going to polling stations. This method makes it easier for voters to fulfill their civic duty and contributes to a more representative and participatory democracy.
2. **Accessibility:** This system ensures greater accessibility for people with disabilities, elderly citizens, and voters living in remote or rural areas. By mailing ballots to registered voters, everyone has the opportunity to participate, regardless of their physical abilities or proximity to a polling station.
3. **Security and Verification:** Oregon's vote-by-mail system includes various security measures to maintain the integrity of the election process. Signatures on mail-in ballots are verified against voter registration records to prevent fraud. Additionally, paper ballots provide a tangible, auditable trail for verifying election results.
4. **Cost Savings:** Implementing vote by mail has helped Oregon cut costs associated with traditional polling methods, such as staffing and maintaining polling places. It allows resources to be allocated more effectively while ensuring a secure and efficient election process.
5. **Time for Informed Decision-Making:** With vote by mail, Oregonians receive their ballots weeks before Election Day, giving them ample time to research candidates and issues and make informed decisions. This reduces the potential for last-minute confusion and encourages voters to consider their choices carefully.