

Submitter: Sandra Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Please do not break a system that is working. Vote by mail has been working in Oregon for the following reasons:

1. Increased Accessibility – Vote-by-mail allows people with disabilities, seniors, rural residents, and those with limited transportation to participate in elections more easily. This is very important to the large number of seniors in our community, myself included.
2. Convenience – Voters can fill out their ballots at home, taking the time to research candidates and measures before making decisions.
3. Higher Voter Turnout – Studies suggest that states with vote-by-mail options tend to see higher participation rates, particularly in local and midterm elections.
4. Security and Accuracy – Mailed ballots include verification processes such as signature matching, and paper ballots create a clear record for audits.
5. Reduced Costs – Some studies indicate that vote-by-mail can be more cost-effective than maintaining a large number of in-person polling places.
6. Resilience in Emergencies – Natural disasters, public health crises, or other unforeseen events do not disrupt elections when mail-in voting is widely available.
7. Less Risk of Voter Suppression – Vote-by-mail can help counteract issues such as long polling place lines, polling place closures, or intimidation at voting sites.