

Submitter:

Heather Long

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am a born and raised Oregonian. My first election was in 2000, and I voted by mail. Voting by mail is convenient and accessible since the ballots come to the mailing address and can be dropped in a mailbox or designated ballot drop box.

I appreciate having the time to review my ballot instructions and to read through the voter guides and other resources online, while in the comfort of my own home. I fill out my ballot at my own pace, usually over the span of a few days. I would feel rushed to do a ballot in person at a voting booth with a line of people behind me, and I think this would lead to more errors on ballots.

Voting by mail encourages more people throughout the state to cast a ballot without the hardship of taking time off from work, securing childcare, bearing the cost & time of transportation, and the tedium or physical strain of waiting in unpredictable lines during times when the weather is also unpredictable in November and May.

Voting by mail is safe and secure. According to the Secretary of State website on Election Security, "A review of the vote by mail system? by the state's Legislative Fiscal Office found from 2000-2019 there were approximately 61 million ballots cast. Of those, 38 criminal convictions of voter fraud were obtained. This amounts to a .00006% rate."

Creating voting booths and staffing them in each county according to population would be a huge expense and reduce voter turnout. The only reason to change from our current safe and accessible method of vote by mail to instead require people to physically go to a voting booth on election day is to suppress voter turnout. These are reasons why I oppose Senate Bill 210, Sponsored by Senator DB Smith.