

Submitter: Richard Monk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

It is absolutely absurd that I am put in the position of saying alongside so many others what we all know to be true: Vote-by-Mail is a fundamental staple of our Democracy. I have never voted in person. I have always voted by Mail. I am a US citizen, born in this country. I am not concerned about any voter fraud which may or may not arise from Mail Voting. The penalties for such fraud are severe which is why it is uncommon. Vote-by-Mail allows millions of Americans to vote who otherwise might not be able to take the time for it. They can carefully weigh the measures and candidates on their own free time (even if that's 3AM in the morning,) and then deliver their sealed envelope to the polling place of their choosing. I use my local library, which has worked well for me all of the years I have been voting. The sealed votes are placed in a locked tub at the front of the library and cannot be removed or modified discreetly.

If in-person voting (which increasingly stringent voter ID laws) becomes the new normal, what we will inevitably see is an increasing number of Americans who are unable to vote or disenfranchised to vote. Either they cannot take the time out of their day to vote (because of work or other commitments,) or they will become disenfranchised due to the high number of hurdles they are required to jump over in order to cast their vote. They will say to themselves, "my vote doesn't matter anyway, and I am so busy and it's too much of a pain in the ass." Removing mail-in-ballots will hurt everyone, but it will especially hurt younger voters who have less free time. This is a partisan Republican strategy to remove a large number of Democrat votes with a combination of stringent voter ID laws and increasingly inconvenient (and few) voting choices.

My entire family votes by mail. I vote Democrat and two others vote Republican, typically. All three of us will be harmed if vote-by-mail is repealed in this country. Vote by Mail is good for everyone except partisan hacks trying to rig election outcomes to their benefit. If we want fair elections then we must make it easy and convenient for all US CITIZENS to cast their votes. We already have laws that heavily penalize voter fraud on the voter side, which is why it is uncommon. Fraud on the counting side cannot be fixed by repealing mail-in-voting in any case.

Please keep Mail in Voting in Oregon. It is in the interests of all.

Richard Monk