

Submitter: Thomas Karwaki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
SB 210 - Oppose
Submitter: Thomas Karwaki, Portland

I oppose SB 210 and urge the Rules Committee to not pass it to the Senate. SB 210 would effectively disenfranchise large groups of Oregonians. In particular it would disenfranchise those who have mobility issues. This can include persons with a physical disability that makes getting to a polling place, which could be as much as 10-50 miles away difficult if not impossible. Before the age of mail-in ballot this was the case for my mother, and it may soon be the case for my partner. This bill effectively disenfranchises folks in nursing homes, ambulatory care, hospitals and jails. It also discriminates against those for whom English is a Second Language since not all ballots are available in multiple languages and translators will not be available at polling places. In some counties this can be 10-25% of the eligible voters. Finally it creates a barrier to persons who while able bodied have to work during election day.

SB 210 also requires government ID - which per the nation's current Executive Order is a US Passport (Real ID is insufficient). Birth certificates are not acceptable either. So voters will have to spend up to \$200 to get the required documentation and start that process 90-150 days before Election Day. Estimates are that over 50% of US Citizens do not have a passport. So SB 210 requires an effective poll tax of \$200 and 2-4 hours of time.

The current voting system has increased voter participation such that Oregon is almost always one of the leading states in voter turnout. So SB 210 reduces voter engagement and participation.

SB 210 INCREASES costs as well. It requires hiring hundreds if not thousands of people for a minimum of 20 hours. It requires purchasing voting equipment (millions of dollars for other states similar in size to Oregon). It requires renting space in hundreds of locations in Oregon for a minimum of three days. Assuming that schools will open their doors without charging rent is not realistic.

Finally, SB 210 increases the opportunities for fraud and increases compliance costs. The current system of county-wide offices reduces human error rates. Requiring hundreds of locations increases the chances of errors, which will only be found after inspections during the certification process.

SB 210 creates a poll tax.

SB 210 reduces voter participation and engagement

SB 210 increases government (local and state) operating costs
SB 210 increases the potential for fraud and error

Please vote NO on SB 210.