

Submitter: Travis Strum  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Senate Bill 210 represents a critical opportunity to modernize and strengthen Oregon's electoral process by transitioning from an all-mail voting system to a single-day, in-person voting framework, coupled with a requirement for valid government-issued identification. This reform is not merely a procedural shift—it is a bold step toward enhancing election integrity, boosting voter confidence, and ensuring that Oregon's democratic process remains a model of fairness and security.

First, single-day, in-person voting reestablishes a unified civic experience that has been diluted by Oregon's decades-long reliance on mail-in ballots. While vote-by-mail was innovative when adopted in 1998, it has increasingly shown vulnerabilities—lost ballots, signature mismatches, and delays in counting—that erode public trust. A designated Election Day focuses voting into a transparent, observable event, allowing election officials to monitor and secure the process in real time. This concentrated effort reduces the risks of fraud or error that can occur over the weeks-long mail-in period, ensuring that every vote is cast and counted under consistent, supervised conditions.

Second, requiring voter ID is a commonsense measure to safeguard the ballot box. Critics may argue that ID requirements suppress turnout, but evidence from states like Georgia and Texas, where voter ID laws have been implemented, shows no significant decline in participation—rather, turnout has often increased. In Oregon, where driver's licenses, state IDs, and other forms of identification are widely accessible (with free options available through the DMV), this requirement poses no undue burden. Instead, it aligns with the basic principle that only eligible citizens should vote, preventing potential impersonation or duplicate voting. A 2021 poll by Rasmussen Reports found that 75% of Americans support voter ID laws, reflecting a broad consensus that verification enhances trust—an asset Oregon cannot afford to lose.

Moreover, SB210 preserves accessibility through absentee options for those unable to vote in person, balancing convenience with security. This hybrid approach ensures that no legitimate voter is disenfranchised while addressing the weaknesses of a fully mail-based system. The bill's emphasis on in-person voting also fosters community engagement, as citizens gather on a shared day to exercise their rights, reinforcing the democratic spirit that mail-in voting can inadvertently weaken.

Oregon has long prided itself on voter participation, but participation without confidence is hollow. SB210 addresses growing concerns about election integrity head-on, offering a system that is secure, transparent, and equitable. By adopting single-day, in-person voting with voter ID, you have the chance to restore faith in our elections, protect the sanctity of every ballot, and lead the nation toward a more robust democracy. I urge you to support this forward-thinking legislation.

Sincerely, Oregon Registered Voter