

Submitter:

Anne Bridgman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Oregon prides itself on being a state that is all mail-in voting. Let's keep it that way. There are so many benefits to mail-in voting, including 1) cost savings (e.g., in Oregon, vote-by-mail in special elections resulted in savings of over \$1 million between 1995 and 1997), 2) equity and fairness to folks with disabilities or for whom travel is difficult (e.g., vulnerable citizens, people whose work doesn't allow them time off, people with health conditions, rural voters), 3) increases in turnout (Oregon typically has higher voter turnout than states without mail-in ballots), and 4) a viable system should there be another pandemic (while other states had to scramble to convert to mail ballots when COVID-19 hit, Oregon did not). For voters who want to vote in person, they can go to their voting offices and do so. But most Oregonians highly value mail-in-voting and there is no reason to change things in our state. Efforts to curtail or eliminate voting by mail amount to voter suppression and should be opposed vehemently.