

Submitter:

Gary Van Zandt

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

My name is Gary Van Zandt and I'm writing today in strong opposition to Oregon SB 210. I'm shocked to hear that the Oregon Legislature is even considering rolling back its constituents' coveted vote-by-mail method in favor of returning to in-person voting with some absentee options. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. The current system works incredibly well. Voter fraud is virtually non-existent.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a national model for secure, inclusive, and efficient elections. It's a superior election system. It encourages participation in our Democratic process by increasing voter turnout, reducing barriers for working people and rural communities and ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to make their voice heard. Vote by mail has been the standard for Oregon for many years. It is convenient and safe. We must not change this time tested effective method of voting!

By limiting vote-by-mail options and imposing strict identification requirements, Oregon SB 210 threatens to dismantle a system that has worked successfully for decades. It would make in-person voting on election day the standard method for voting in Oregon. This is absolutely unnecessary and anti-democratic. For many Oregonians—especially seniors, people with disabilities, rural voters, and those balancing multiple jobs—vote by mail is not just a convenience; it's a necessity. Restricting this option would disproportionately impact those communities, creating unnecessary burdens and reducing participation. Furthermore, Oregon's vote-by-mail process is secure and transparent. Every ballot is tracked, verified, and counted with rigorous safeguards in place.

Eliminating voting by mail amounts to large scale voter suppression which is anti-Democratic. Only sore losers want to suppress the vote.

Voting is one of the most important rights we have as citizens. Oregon's vote-by-mail system honors that right by making voting convenient and accessible to all eligible voters. Making in-person voting the standard, as proposed by this unnecessary bill, would be a huge step backward that would impose harmful burdens on this crucial right and depress voter turnout.

The mail-in system gives all Oregon voters ample opportunity to exercise their right. This includes the elderly. It includes the disabled. It includes those with inflexible work schedules for whom in-person voting is difficult. It includes those living in counties with an insufficient number of in-person voting locations, resulting in lengthy

waits. Mail-in voting is not impacted by adverse weather conditions that impact in-person voting. It's not impacted by intimidation tactics that can be employed at in-person voting locations. Mail-in voting is not merely adequate - it is superior to in-person voting. It's something Oregon can take pride in. This bill threatens our sacred right to vote.

Vote no on SB 210