

Submitter:

Rainy Knight

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to oppose legislation that would rescind mail-in voting in Oregon and replace it with in-person voting only on designated Election Days. I moved here from a state that has no mail-in voting and it made it very difficult for a substantial portion of the population to engage in the voting process, resulting in one of the most conservative state governments in the nation. Mail-in ballots ensure that every single eligible voter in the state has plenty of time to cast their ballot regardless of schedule conflicts due to work, school, childcare, or any number of other situations that may otherwise interfere with voting. Ensuring that all eligible voters have a reasonable chance to cast their ballot is critical at a time when there are nationwide efforts to disenfranchise as many voters as possible for a wide variety of reasons. Any effort to end mail-in voting in Oregon, a state with a very high voter turnout, is an obvious ploy to dilute the state's traditionally progressive lean and is a deliberate effort to disenfranchise voters who may oppose growing authoritarianism throughout the United States. Mail-in voting is also less expensive for the state to manage than in-person only voting. It is crucial that Oregon remain the bastion of true democracy that it is by keeping it as easy as possible to cast a vote, not making it as difficult as possible.