

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am opposed to this bill. Maximizing voter turnout is a key component of any functional democracy. This bill attacks voters in two different ways.

Making in-person voting the default makes it much harder for the average person to vote. I moved to Oregon several years ago from out of state and have been very impressed by and grateful for all the efforts that Oregon has made to streamline the ability to vote. I was able to register at the same time I got my Oregon driver's license. I automatically get ballots in the mail, which means that I never miss an opportunity to make my voice heard. My household receives a booklet describing each candidate and each piece of legislation on the ballot, which helps me to better understand the implications of what I am voting for. Voting by mail gives me the time to consider each candidate and piece of legislation and make an educated decision and then send it off in the mail. I don't need to take time off work to stand in line to vote at a center. The more barriers we can remove between a voter and a ballot box, the more likely citizens are to vote, which again is vital for any functional democracy.

The second issue with this bill is the requirement for government issued ID. This is discriminatory against college students, the elderly, and minorities, who are significantly less likely to have acceptable government issued ID. This is an unnecessary barrier to voting and is a type of voter suppression antithetical to a functional democracy.

Both of these measures are held up as methods intended to reduce voter fraud. However, this is a solution looking for a problem. The Heritage Foundation- a conservative organization, responsible for authoring Project 2025- keeps a database of voter fraud, available at <https://electionfraud.heritage.org/search>. A quick look at this database reveals that from the year 2000 up through the 2024 election there have been 17 cases of voter fraud in Oregon. Seventeen cases over 24 years of mail-in only voting.

There is no issue of voter fraud here. Mail-in voting ensures that it is easy for everyone to vote without prohibitive voter suppression laws like requiring photo ID. The state of Oregon does a great job of informing their voters and giving them opportunities to participate in democracy. We should continue to ensure that each citizen has a right to vote, instead of taking those opportunities away.