

Submitter:

Mary Brau

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

At age 77 years, I continue to be proud of Oregon voters' approval of 1998 Ballot Measure 60, requiring vote-by-mail in all biennial primary and general elections. We pioneered a award-winning system of vote-by-mail, and I strongly oppose the current effort, SB210, which would take us back to a stone age system of voting in person, which is less convenient and more costly.

While the financial impact of SB 210 is yet to be presented, election-related expenses of requiring voters to appear in person will obviously exceed our current election expenses, considering the costs of finding and staffing conveniently-located public spaces, the costs of acquiring and and maintaining voting booths and machines, providing security for every precinct in the state, and counting and transporting all the ballots for verification at the end of election day. It makes no economic sense to revert to a more expensive and less secure procedure for voting.

In addition to the adverse financial impact on the state's limited resources, the convenience to voters and the minimization of voters' expenses-- taking time off work, starting earlier in the day or standing in line at the end of the day-- and the ease of deciding on how to vote and filling out one's ballot in the leisure and comfort of one's home-- these are all reasons that we, the voters of Oregon, are both proud of, and satisfied with the current system of vote-by-mail. Please therefore mind the old adage, "If it ain't broke..." SB 210 needs to be soundly defeated.