

Opposition to Oregon SB 210

SB 210 is just another attempt in the long history of Republican initiatives designed to suppress voter turnout and thereby help their candidates get elected. Don't take my word for it, read the words of Republicans themselves :

“This will be extremely devastating to Republicans and conservatives,” Georgia State House Speaker David Ralston said in April 2020, citing proposals that will “certainly drive up turnout.” (1)

“Traditionally it's always been Republicans suppressing votes in places,” Clark, the Trump campaign adviser and legal counsel, was taped saying at a closed-door meeting of the Republican National Lawyers Association chapter in Wisconsin in 2019. (2)

“I guess I really actually feel we shouldn't contort the voting process to accommodate the urban — read African-American — voter-turnout machine.” - Doug Priesse, chairman of the Franklin County Republican Party and a member of the elections board, on the reason he opposed extended voting hours in Columbus, Ohio. (3)

Unfortunately these are not just words, Republicans go to great lengths to suppress voting. We're all familiar with the Brooks Brothers riot that stopped the vote count in Miami-Dade county Florida in 2000.

The 2004 Presidential election turned in Ohio through the skullduggery of Republican Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, whose voter suppression efforts involved the closing of polling places that caused many voters to wait up to 10 hours to cast a ballot. (4)

Former Senior Advisor to George Bush and Master of Dirty Tricks Karl Rove regularly practiced “caging,” challenging the registrations of people of color who tend to vote for Democrats. He preferred targeting people in military service deployed overseas so they couldn't respond, or people who are registered to homeless shelter addresses. (5)

President Trump may be able to push through his anti-voting agenda with the help of his lackeys in red states, but not here in Oregon. Our vote-by-mail system is the envy of the nation, and is one of only 13 states whose voter turnout exceeded 73% in 2020. Oregon needs to hold the line and keep voting accessible, and that is best done through mail-in voting. I urge you to vote NO on SB 210.

Respectfully,
Dean Guillotis
Eugene, Oregon

(1)https://www.huffpost.com/entry/georgia-absentee-voting-republicans-david-ralston_n_5e85f736c5b692780508d69f

(2)<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/04/republicans-now-just-admitting-they-want-fewer-americans-to-vote>

(3)<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/2012/08/21/stopping-african-american-voter-turnout/10360228007/>

(4) <https://www.citybeat.com/news/ken-blackwell-s-disgraceful-election-machinations-12229108>

(5)<https://www.gregpalast.com/caging-gets-legal-rnc-asks-court-lift-consent-decree-blocked-jim-crow-voter-purge-scam/>