

Submitter:

David Adamec

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

My name is David Adamec, and I am writing today as a concerned Oregonian urging you to oppose this bill to make in-person voting the standard and roll back our vote-by-mail system. Oregon has been a leader in secure, efficient, and accessible elections for over 20 years, and there is no reason to dismantle a system that works so well.

Vote-by-mail has increased participation across our state. Oregon consistently ranks among the top states in voter turnout because the system allows people to cast their ballots without worrying about long lines, limited polling places, or work and family conflicts. This accessibility is especially important for seniors, people with disabilities, rural voters, and working families who might struggle to get to a polling place on Election Day.

Security has always been a priority in Oregon's elections. Every ballot undergoes signature verification, and voters can track their ballots to ensure they are received and counted. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our state's vote-by-mail system, and in fact, it has been studied and praised as one of the most secure election processes in the country.

Beyond security and accessibility, vote-by-mail is also a cost-effective way to conduct elections. Instead of spending taxpayer dollars on maintaining thousands of polling places and staffing them for a single day, Oregon's system streamlines the process while ensuring every voter has the opportunity to participate.

Last but not least, our vote-by-mail system provides critical resilience in times of crisis. When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted elections nationwide, Oregon's system continued without issue. Whether facing public health emergencies, natural disasters, or other unexpected challenges, vote-by-mail ensures that Oregonians can vote safely and without unnecessary obstacles.

Moving to an in-person voting standard would only create barriers for voters, increase costs, and make our elections less accessible. There is no justification for replacing a system that has served Oregon so well. I urge this committee to reject any proposal that weakens vote-by-mail and instead focus on strengthening voter participation and election security.

Thank you for your time.