

Submitter: Karma Flowers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Written Testimony Opposing In-Person-Only Voting Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed change to eliminate mail-in voting and require in-person voting only in the state of Oregon. As a proud Oregonian, I value the democratic process and believe that every eligible voter should have equal access to casting their ballot—regardless of physical ability, health status, work schedule, transportation access, or location.

Oregon has been a national leader in mail-in voting for decades, and it has consistently proven to be safe, secure, and effective. It empowers rural residents, elderly citizens, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and those juggling multiple jobs—people who may not be able to stand in long lines or make it to a polling place on a specific day. Removing mail-in voting doesn't just inconvenience voters—it silences them.

This change doesn't solve a problem; it creates one. It disproportionately affects the most vulnerable among us and undermines the inclusivity of our elections. In a state that has long led with common sense and innovation, this proposal feels like a step backward—one that smells more like suppression than progress.

If the goal is to increase voter turnout and trust, then accessibility must remain a cornerstone of our election process. I respectfully urge you to reject this harmful proposal and preserve Oregon's vote-by-mail system—a model that other states have looked to as a standard of voter empowerment.

Sincerely,
Karma Flowers
Corvallis, OR