

Submitter: Ashley Eisenbrandt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 210 Submitted by Ashley Eisenbrandt, Lifelong Oregon Resident March 29, 2025

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 210, a measure that I believe will strengthen the integrity of our elections and restore confidence in Oregon's democratic process. By making in-person voting the standard, requiring voter identification, and reinforcing the security of our electoral system, SB210 takes meaningful steps to ensure that every vote cast is legitimate, fair, and reflective of Oregon's citizenry.

Oregon has long prided itself on accessible elections, but accessibility must not come at the expense of security. The shift to in-person voting, effective January 1, 2028, as outlined in SB210, offers a controlled environment where voter identity can be verified directly, reducing risks such as voter impersonation or mail-in ballot fraud. Requiring a government-issued photo ID—whether an Oregon driver's license, state ID, U.S. passport, or military ID—further ensures that the person casting a ballot is who they claim to be. These measures align with a common-sense principle: elections must be both open to all eligible voters and protected from abuse.

One pressing concern SB210 helps address is the potential for votes by those not legally entitled to participate, including undocumented immigrants. While Oregon law requires proof of citizenship at voter registration, recent reports have revealed flaws in this system. For instance, since 2021, nearly 1,260 possible noncitizens were mistakenly registered through automatic voter registration at the DMV, as noted by OPB. SB210's voter ID requirement at the point of voting provides an additional safeguard, allowing election officials to cross-check identities against registration records. Though not a direct citizenship check—given that Oregon driver's licenses, acceptable under the bill, can be issued to undocumented residents—it strengthens the process by catching errors that might otherwise go undetected.

Critics may argue that voter ID laws suppress turnout, particularly among marginalized groups. However, studies, such as those cited by the Heritage Foundation, suggest these laws do not significantly reduce participation when implemented thoughtfully. To address accessibility, I urge lawmakers to pair SB210 with support measures, such as free or low-cost ID programs and public education

campaigns. This balanced approach ensures that security enhancements do not disenfranchise eligible voters but instead empower them to participate with confidence.

The rarity of voter fraud, as highlighted by groups like the Brennan Center, does not negate the need for vigilance. Even one fraudulent vote undermines the voice of lawful Oregonians. SB210's provisions—making in-person voting standard, tightening mail-in ballot requests, and mandating ID—send a clear message: our elections must be above reproach. Moreover, by referring the Act to voters in November 2026, this bill respects Oregon's tradition of public input, allowing citizens to affirm these changes.

In conclusion, SB210 is a vital step toward fairer, more secure elections. It protects the integrity of our democracy while addressing real concerns about eligibility and trust. I respectfully urge your support for this bill and encourage complementary measures to ensure its success. Together, we can uphold Oregon's commitment to elections that are both accessible and trustworthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Ashley Eisenbrandt, Bend, Oregon