

Submitter:

Mark Lindberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

My name is Rev. Mark A. Lindberg, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposal that would make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. Such a change would undermine our state's long-standing and successful vote-by-mail system, which has consistently increased voter participation, ensured election security, and upheld accessibility for all eligible voters.

Oregon has been a leader in election innovation since it became the first state to adopt an all-mail voting system in 1998. This system has proven to be both secure and efficient, offering voters the convenience of returning ballots by mail or at designated drop sites. The current system has been instrumental in increasing voter turnout while providing ample opportunities for citizens to research candidates and issues before casting their ballots. Mandating in-person voting as the standard method would create unnecessary barriers for many voters, particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, rural residents, and those with inflexible work schedules.

Moreover, our existing vote-by-mail system is secure, as it includes multiple layers of verification such as signature matching and ballot tracking. Claims that in-person voting is inherently more secure ignore the robust safeguards that have made Oregon's elections among the most trustworthy in the nation. Shifting to an in-person voting model could introduce new risks, such as longer lines, equipment malfunctions, and logistical challenges, all of which could disproportionately affect historically disenfranchised communities.

Changing the standard election method would also be costly. Implementing and maintaining an infrastructure that supports universal in-person voting—hiring additional poll workers, securing polling locations, and ensuring accessibility—would impose a significant financial burden on the state. These resources would be better spent on further enhancing election security and expanding voter access rather than dismantling a system that already works exceptionally well.

For decades, Oregonians have benefited from a system that prioritizes accessibility, security, and efficiency. There is no justification for replacing a model that has been tested and trusted by voters with one that could limit participation and create unnecessary obstacles. I urge this committee to reject any proposal that seeks to make in-person Election Day voting the standard and instead support policies that continue to promote voter access and participation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark A. Lindberg