

Submitter:

Michelle Lin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I oppose the requirement to vote in person. The ability to vote by mail creates an equitable process. Voting in person is most detrimental to people who face barriers - such as taking time off work and not being paid, parents who are unable to have or pay for childcare, people who need to use public transit, disabled people, and so many others. Those who are privileged to have flexible paid time off from work, who are able bodied and can easily travel, wait in long lines, are the ones who will support this. Many places with in person voting have hours long wait, or make voting sites hard to get to or completely inaccessible. How will locations be determined so that everyone can easily access a voting site? Can you guarantee that people will not have to wait in line for hours in rainy conditions? Will voting locations be selected equitably on public transit lines? If fraud is a concern, that can be addressed before the mail is sent. The act of mailing to a valid voter is not where fraud occurs. The implementation of voting in person has so much potential to deter and prevent voting that does not exist with vote by mail.