

Submitter: Jennifer Sordyl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to eliminate Oregon's vote-by-mail system in favor of in-person voting on Election Day as the standard method for conducting elections. As a constituent who believes deeply in the principles of accessible, secure, and efficient elections, I urge you to oppose this bill and uphold Oregon's successful vote-by-mail system.

Oregon has long been a model for accessible elections, with our vote-by-mail system since the late 1980s. This system has proven to increase voter turnout, build trust in our election system, and has shown no evidence of widespread fraud. SB 210 would disenfranchise voters who rely on this method to participate in our democracy, including seniors, people with disabilities, people who work long hours and those living in rural areas far from polling places.

The logistical and financial impact of moving to an in-person voting system would be immense. As a state of 4.2 million people, requiring all Oregonians to take time off from work to vote at polling booths would overwhelm our election infrastructure. Does Senator David Brock Smith have a plan to address the additional costs and potential strain on polling locations? The bill's vague language, stating that it "may have a fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued," raises serious concerns about the unanticipated financial burden that could fall on taxpayers.

Our current system has proven to be both secure and cost-effective. Unlike many other states, Oregon's voting system is less vulnerable to cyber threats because every voter fills out a paper ballot. These ballots are processed using specialized equipment that is not connected to the internet, ensuring a level of security that many other voting systems lack. Additionally, Oregon had the lowest Cost of Voting Index value in 2024, thanks to universal mail-in ballots, which streamline the process and reduce administrative costs.

In contrast, SB 210 would require voters to present government-issued identification at polling places, a measure that could place additional burdens on vulnerable communities, including the elderly and low-income individuals, who may not have easy access to the necessary identification. This requirement also fails to recognize that many Oregonians already face significant barriers to in-person voting, such as long work hours, caregiving responsibilities, or transportation issues.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a proven success that encourages greater civic engagement. It is convenient for working parents, elderly individuals, people with

disabilities, college students, and executives alike. Removing this option would create unnecessary barriers to voting and disproportionately affect those who rely on this system to ensure their voices are heard.

SB 210 represents a regressive step backward, undoing the progress Oregon has made in fostering an inclusive, secure, and efficient electoral process. I strongly oppose this bill and ask that you stand with the majority of Oregonians who value a voting system that works for all citizens, regardless of their circumstances.