

Submitter:

James Nott

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am a HUGE proponent of Oregon's vote-by-mail approach. As a military veteran who has lived and voted in many places before planting my flag in Oregon, I have never witnessed a more effective approach toward participatory democracy anywhere I have ever lived. I love that I get my voters guide and ballot a few weeks before election day. It gives me time to appraise the measures being advanced and the positions of the candidates. I can deliberate before completing the ballot, and then drop it off at one of our secure ballot boxes at my convenience, which works particularly well with my work schedule, which can be rigid and inflexible.

I know I am not the only one who enjoys this benefit. Whether due to rigid work schedules, finances, childcare responsibilities, caregiver responsibilities, emergencies, or other reasons, many people cannot afford to take time off to stand in long lines on Election Day. Mail-in ballots ensure maximum participation in the democratic process. Furthermore, there are measures in place that ensure that our ballot is secure and we can be confident that it will be counted.

The idea of ending this practice is absolutely absurd. I have lived in Oregon since 2008, and not only was this practice not controversial until 2020, but it enjoyed widespread bipartisan popularity. Frankly, this measure is being advanced by political cowards and sycophants of the most egregious and blatant liar who has ever held the office of the President of the United States. Deep down, I know the people who are advancing this measure have themselves enjoyed the benefits of mail-in ballots, and know their friends, families, and constituents have as well. They know that it was not an issue until somebody falsely made it an issue in 2020, and they have decided to jump on that wagon, consciously knowing that it is not in the interest of the people. The people will not stand for it. Mail-in ballots are here, and here they should stay!