

Submitter: Rebecca Farrell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Testimony in Support of the Voting Integrity Act

I am writing to express my strong support for this proposed Act, which establishes in-person voting with photo identification as the standard method for elections, while preserving reasonable accommodations for those unable to vote in person. This measure strikes an excellent balance between ensuring election security and maintaining accessibility, and I believe it will strengthen public confidence in our democratic process.

First, making in-person voting on election day the default method reinforces the tradition of coming together as a community to exercise our civic duty. It's a straightforward, reliable way to cast a ballot, and it minimizes the risks of errors or delays that can sometimes occur with mailed ballots. At the same time, the Act thoughtfully allows voters who are unable to vote in person—whether due to military service, overseas residence, or other legitimate reasons—to request a mail-in ballot. This ensures that no one is disenfranchised while keeping in-person voting as the backbone of our system.

Second, requiring valid government-issued photo ID to vote or request a ballot is a common-sense safeguard. Identification is already a routine part of daily life—whether we're boarding a plane, opening a bank account, or picking up a prescription. Applying this standard to voting protects the integrity of every ballot cast and helps prevent fraud. Critics might argue it's a barrier, but most adults already possess some form of ID, and for those who don't, states can easily provide free options to ensure access.

Finally, I appreciate that the Act requires ballots to be returned by election day and removes the state's obligation to pay for return postage. These provisions encourage voters to plan ahead and take responsibility for their participation, while keeping the process fair and uniform. Referring this Act to the people at the next general election is the perfect way to let voters decide for themselves whether these changes align with their values.

This Act strengthens our elections by prioritizing security, accountability, and voter engagement. I urge its adoption and look forward to seeing it on the ballot for the people to approve.