

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I have lived in Oregon my entire life and I remember when my parents would go wait in line to vote at our local elementary school. They both worked full time, and it was a challenge to fit voting into their typical work day. Thankfully they had employers and transportation that allowed them to make time to vote.

I remember when mail in voting became the standard way of voting and my parents would sit at the dining room table reading the voters pamphlet and making their choices. The consensus among adults I knew was that they loved this system of voting. Personally, it is the only way I've ever voted and I remember getting my first ballot when I was 18.

Vote by mail makes elections accessible to every eligible voter, whether they be young old, wealthy or poor, urban or suburban, disabled or able bodied. People can vote when it works for their schedule, so long as the ballot is received by Election Day. Why would we want to make voting less accessible?

The accusations of mass voter fraud across the country have no data to back them up. This was never even a concern until recent years when the GOP voiced grievances about close and/or lost elections by creating lies that elections were stolen, ineligible people are voting, and our systems aren't secure. Nevermind that voting issues were most prevalent in places that have to vote in person with ridiculously long lines, problems with machines, and concerted efforts to make voting more difficult. This isn't about secure, fair elections. It's about deterring people from voting. Republicans win when voters sit out elections. They don't want a diverse representation of voters. Let's be smarter than that Oregon. Let's keep our vote by mail system and make sure ALL eligible voters are able to participate in Election Day without unnecessary obstacles. Every voice matters!