

Submitter: James Best  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210  
Oregon Resident

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is James Best, and I have lived in Oregon my entire life. I am writing to express my strong opposition to any effort to eliminate vote-by-mail in our state. Oregon has used vote-by-mail successfully for decades, and it has proven to be a secure, accessible, and reliable method of conducting elections.

Vote-by-mail ensures that all eligible voters, regardless of work schedules, health conditions, mobility challenges, or rural living situations, have the ability to participate in our democracy. It eliminates the barriers of long lines, transportation issues, and restrictive polling hours that can make voting difficult for many people. As someone who has seen the benefits of vote-by-mail firsthand, I can say with confidence that it increases voter turnout and makes the process more convenient for Oregonians without compromising security.

The integrity of Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been upheld through strict verification processes, including signature matching and ballot tracking. There is no valid reason to remove this system, and doing so would only serve to make voting harder for many citizens.

Getting rid of vote-by-mail would disproportionately affect working-class individuals, elderly residents, people with disabilities, and rural voters who rely on this method to make their voices heard. In a state that has successfully run elections this way for over 20 years, removing vote-by-mail would be a step backward, not forward. I believe mail voting is more secure than in person tampering for many reasons I won't go into here.

I urge lawmakers and decision-makers to stand against any efforts to eliminate vote-by-mail in Oregon. We should be working to make voting more accessible, not more difficult.

Sincerely,  
James Best  
Oregon Resident