

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210. This bill would fundamentally alter Oregon's election system by eliminating universal vote-by-mail, requiring in-person voting as the default, mandating government-issued identification for voting, and ending state-paid return postage for ballots. These changes would make voting less accessible, less secure, and more burdensome for many Oregonians.

For over 20 years, Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been a national model for secure, accessible, and efficient elections. It has consistently resulted in high voter participation and minimal instances of fraud. Requiring in-person voting as the standard method would create unnecessary barriers for working people, rural voters, seniors, and those with disabilities—many of whom rely on the convenience of vote-by-mail to ensure their voices are heard.

Furthermore, requiring voters to present government-issued identification at the polls disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, including seniors, low-income individuals, and those with disabilities who may not have easy access to the required documentation. Election security is already well maintained through signature verification, which has proven to be an effective safeguard against fraud without disenfranchising eligible voters.

Eliminating state-funded return postage for mail-in ballots also imposes an undue burden on voters, effectively creating a financial barrier to participation in our democracy. While it may seem like a small cost, for many voters—especially those with limited access to postal services—this could discourage participation.

Oregonians have consistently demonstrated their trust in vote-by-mail, and there is no evidence to suggest that shifting to an in-person voting model would improve election security or accessibility. Instead, this bill would make it harder for eligible voters to cast their ballots, reduce voter turnout, and undermine the accessibility and efficiency that have defined Oregon's elections for decades.

I urge you to oppose SB 210 and preserve Oregon's long-standing commitment to accessible, secure, and voter-friendly elections.

Sincerely,
Donna Trippett