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

Nationally, Oregon ranks among the lowest in election security, ranked #48 based on extensive research by The Heritage Foundation. Many vulnerabilities have been identified that significantly undermine Oregonians' trust in our elections.

Successful businesses conduct risk analyses, and then implement risk mitigation techniques to shore up vulnerabilities. Why wouldn't we employ this standard, common-sense practice to our sacred elections?

The majority of states in our country require some sort of identification upon voting. Oregon is not one of them.

And when people register to vote in Oregon, according to ORS 247.012, "If a registration card is legible, accurate and contains at a minimum the registrant's name, residence address, date of birth, signature, and attestation of US citizenship, the county clerk or elections official shall register the individual to vote." The individual simply has to state on paper that he or she is a U.S. citizen. THIS IS ASTONISHING.

Once a registration is accepted, the only further check performed before counting a vote associated with that registration is to match the signature on the ballot to the signature used to create the voter registration. Even perfect accuracy of signature verification would not prevent fraud that occurs at the registration level.

Oregon continues to be embroiled in lawsuits related to the egregious manner Oregon conducts its elections and voter registration practices.

One particularly concerning law is, under ORS 254.470, ballots are accepted up to seven days after Election Day if postmarked by Election Day. HOWEVER, an alarming provision states that if a ballot lacks a postal indicator or the indicator is illegible, it is assumed to have been mailed on Election Day and is counted.

In-person voting that requires electors to show picture ID would help mitigate the current vulnerabilities in our system; however, SB 210 still allows for exceptions. SB 210 still provides the option of mail-in (i.e., absentee) voting if the elector is unable to vote in person on the date of the election, and mail-in voting will remain the primary voting method for military and overseas electors and for electors with mailing addresses outside of Oregon.

SB 210 is a common-sense bill that will help ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust in Oregon's elections. I fully support SB 210.