

Dear Oregon Senators,

First I would like to thank you for all that you do to protect the beauty of our state and the residents who call Oregon home.

I have been a proud Oregon resident for five years, and in that time I have found many things that we do differently here which make this state great. One of those things, importantly, is automatic voting by mail. Oregon is a leader in this regard, providing access to democratic participation for citizens who may otherwise be unable to vote because they have to work, balance childcare, have limited mobility, or happen to be fighting illness or injury to name a few. Should these things limit democratic participation? No, but they do in the many states where voting must occur in person on one single day.

Aside from the limitations of access that in person voting creates, it also presents a situation where voters are less prepared and have to make decisions on an instant instead of being able to take the time to do the proper due diligence on their election decisions. This in particular is an aspect I have grown to rely on with our vote by mail system. I take my time with my ballot, typically spending about one week in its entirety to complete it. Some of the decisions I know immediately, but many of the elections I am uninformed on, but don't want to leave blank either. Having time to do research on those elections, better understand the propositions, bills, and elected offices which I am tasked with making a directive on allows me to be a better participant in our democracy.

Voting by mail enhances our state's democratic processes by allowing more citizens access to participation and it allows those who vote to do so intentionally, not just in a snap decision in the voting booth. I am urging you to please protect the sanctity of this core aspect of Oregonian greatness and vote NO on SB 210.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Kay