

Submitter:

Amy Mahady

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I have lived in and voted in elections in various midwestern states. To vote in person takes up the voters working time and is a confusing process. The beauty of voting here in Oregon, which I have come to fully enjoy and whole heartedly support, is that it is a very methodical, rational process. I am mailed my ballot. I read about the candidates. I muse about their possible virtues and vices and mark my candidates over several days. Then I drop my ballot off. I am in control of who I vote for and am not under any time commitments. I don't avoid voting because it takes up my time. Voting in the midwest was pretty bad 20 years ago. And according to my relatives is even worse now. There are so many unnecessary rules about presenting id, voting in the correct voting area, standing in line for hours, having people be threatening around you while you vote. The intimidation of having people around you is not a factor to be ignored. Our vote has become more and more important and at the same time our government is trying to disenfranchise regular Americans. The very people who think they want the voting process to change are the very people who want to intimidate people (women and minorities) but are also the people most likely to be disenfranchised (rural and undereducated). And can you imagine all of our people in rural areas forced to drive hours to vote? Ridiculous. I am absolutely opposed to changing our mail in ballot to an in-person voting system that has repeatedly been shown to be intimidating, onerous, and unreliable. What exactly does in-person voting do that voting by mail doesn't do? It wastes our time just like this ballot does.