

Submitter:

Bernard Matthews

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing in opposition to SB10, the bill proposing to make in person voting the standard in Oregon. Oregon's vote by mail system is one of the most effective in the nation at reaching voters across the political spectrum and across the state. Oregon consistently ranks in the top ten in voter participation and is often first in the nation. This is due in no small part to the Oregon vote by mail system. Not only does the current Oregon system encourage voter participation by ensuring every voter receives the official ballot with full text of the measures and explanations of candidate positions, it makes voting easy and convenient for every citizen, including the elderly, handicapped, rural, and those unable to vote in person during working hours. Vote by mail is a cornerstone of the Oregon democracy. Passage of SB10 would be tantamount to voter suppression. It would dramatically increase the cost of elections while decreasing access the a vast swath of Oregon voters. Rather than Oregon moving to follow the states with the nation's highest voter suppression practices and lowest voter participation, Oregon must continue to lead the Nation in participatory democracy as an example to other states of what fairness and voter encouragement can achieve.