

Submitter:

Debbie Palmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose SB 210. Please **do not** pass this bill! Keep the current mail-in/drop-off paper-ballot voting system as the standard method for conducting an election in Oregon. It has worked flawlessly for decades. Don't try to fix what isn't broke!

I trust a paper ballot over an electronic one any day. Paper ballots by their nature are decentralized and therefore much more difficult to tamper with. Electronic voting machines are supposedly secure... but in this new world of AI, I'm concerned there are far too many new opportunities to mess with electronic voting — ways that could make a vote count 'appear' legit, when in actuality it has been twisted via sophisticated tech to some motive other than the will of the voters... with no way to verify. With paper ballots, you can always go back to the original ballots and recount if you have to. Electronic voting has no such protections.

I moved to Oregon ten years ago and have absolutely loved the paper ballot option! What a great system! You are able to take your time and digest the content of your ballot over days if you like, and then fill it out in the comfort of your own home. You can research initiatives and candidates, get all the background info together and then when you're ready, cast an informed vote. You can take the time you need.

In-person voting creates an unnecessary rush and a (sometimes huge) backlog. The number and accessibility of polling places has shrunk over the years in many states because finding people to staff polling places has become increasingly difficult; election officials and voters alike are threatened and/or intimidated... so who would want that job? It's a vicious cycle.

Again: paper ballot/mail-in voting is decentralized. Far safer from tampering than electronic. (And also far safer for voters and officials alike!)

Voter legitimacy is already determined when one registers to vote. You can only receive a ballot if you're registered, so changing the system to in-person/day-of-election voting and then insisting on proof of identity again is redundant — your ballot is your proof!

Anyway, there are just SOOOO many reasons to oppose this bill. I am just scratching the surface.

To repeat: please do not pass SB 210.

Thank you.