

3/30/25

Oregon Senate Committee on Rules
& Senator David Smith

RE: House Bill 210

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 210. As a resident of Coos County for the last 14 years, I have reveled in the relaxed convenience that mail in voting allows for my busy lifestyle versus Michigan, from which I relocated, that implements in-person voting system. Having used both systems of voting, I would like to elaborate specifically on the pitfalls of in-person voting and why I support maintaining the mail in ballot process:

One of the biggest inconveniences of In-person Voting is the Polling location itself. Working a standard job (8am to 5pm) requires that you be out the door at 7am and back home at 6pm with standard traffic. As most are aware, Election Day is **NOT** a federal holiday, and therefore requires that you must take off time from your work schedule to drive to your appointed polling location. While I had the opportunity to leave early, I understood my experience to be rare. It is more likely that working people cannot leave early, an employer cannot allow an employee (for example a service worker) the same opportunity.

Travel to a specific location can also be difficult for individuals who have unreliable transportation, or none at all, and must rely on public transportation. Compounding on transportation issues are the typical obligations of the day that may impact ones ability to vote within the specific time allotted. As we all understand, parents might need child care, sons and daughters may need elder care, some have medical appointments, and people get sick, etc.

Once at your polling location, in-person voting requires you to wait; exactly how long you must wait depends on a number of factors: what time you arrive, the length of the line, time required to validate ID, time required to operate equipment; the delays in a truly busy polling location are limitless.

Based on my experience in both methods of voting, I firmly believe that Senate Bill 210 is simply an attempt to dismantle the proven mail in voting system, imposing obstructive and restrictive measures that will disenfranchise countless numbers of voters throughout the state.

I do not support House Bill 210

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

David Reed