

Submitter:	Christine Rhines
On Behalf Of:	SB210
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB210

SB 210 would make voting difficult marginalized communities, such as the elderly, disabled, and people who cannot afford to take time off from work to vote in person. One analysis of the bill states that people could request a mail-in ballot no later than 21 days before the election. This eliminates people who may have planned to vote in person, so they did not request a ballot. But, then on election day, they are ill, out of town or otherwise unable to vote, even though they had planned to vote in person? It will make it easier for people to simply say "I can't be bothered to vote in person, it's just too much trouble." We already know that voter turnout is often low, even with the convenience offered by vote-by-mail. As I read the analysis of this bill, I have to wonder what is to be accomplished? What is the goal? We already know that there has been no credible evidence of voter fraud in Oregon. So, what do the sponsors of this bill think will change? It appears that it is designed to keep more people from voting. My fear is that it will keep even more people from spending time learning about candidates and issues, and voting thoughtfully. I strongly oppose this bill and trust that members of the legislature who represent us will vote NO. Oregon was the first state in the country to offer vote-by-mail in 1998. Let's not throw out what is already working.