

Submitter:

James Gifford

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose SB210 requiring votes to be cast in-person on the date of election. Limiting access to voting only serves to reduce access to democracy. In contrast, efforts to expand access to voting and make it more available strengthen democratic participation. Oregon has a strong history of vote-by-mail that we should be proud of. It is a highly efficient program that is universally popular. It has demonstrated that voting can be both convenient and broadly available while still being absolutely secure and fair. We should do all we can to protect and expand this program for the benefit of all Oregonians and as an example to the nation. Eliminating vote-by-mail will prevent many from participating including disabled persons, home-bound persons, military people serving overseas, low-income persons working long shifts, parents with limited child care, and busy professionals with demanding schedules. I have voted by mail for as many years as it has been available to me. Voting in my own home on my own schedule allows me to be more thoughtful about the selections I make, taking time to study each candidate and issue, instead of being rushed to make room for the next person in line. My children are able to see me vote, therefore reinforcing to the rising generation the importance of civic engagement. Oregon should do all we can to protect voting rights, preserve and expand access to participating in elections, and fortify our state's incredible vote-by-mail system. Please vote no on SB210.