

Submitter: Bonnie MacDonald
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

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I support SB 210

I support returning to in-person voting in Oregon. Voting is the cornerstone of our democratic process. In-person voting that ensures the integrity, accessibility, and security of elections. As we consider the future of voting in our state, I believe it is crucial to maintain and strengthen election integrity by returning to in-person voting. First and foremost, in-person voting ensures the highest level of security. When voters cast their ballots in person, they are physically present at the polling station, which provides a controlled environment for monitoring and verifying voter identity. This minimizes the risk of fraudulent activity and ensures that each vote is cast by the rightful voter. The presence of poll workers and election observers also ensures that any potential issues can be addressed promptly, further bolstering the integrity of the election process.

Additionally, in-person voting is an important safeguard against the potential risks associated with online or mail-in voting systems, which can be vulnerable to cyber-attacks or errors in mail delivery. In-person voting offers a direct and immediate way to cast a vote, reducing the risk of technical glitches or delays that could compromise the accuracy and timely counting of ballots.

Moreover, in-person voting fosters civic engagement. Voting is not just a right, but also a responsibility. The act of going to the polls reminds citizens of the importance of their participation in the democratic process. It offers an opportunity for communities to come together, for neighbors to engage with one another, and for people to feel connected to the broader political system. For many, the polling station serves as a vital point of engagement, especially for those who may feel disconnected from other aspects of the political process.

In-person voting also provides a vital service to those with specific needs, such as individuals with disabilities or those facing language barriers. Polling stations are typically equipped with resources to assist these voters, such as accessible voting machines and language assistance, ensuring that all individuals can cast their ballots confidently and without unnecessary obstacles. For many, the option to vote in person ensures that their voices are heard and that their needs are adequately met. Lastly, in-person voting helps maintain the public's trust in the electoral process. A visible, transparent, and secure voting experience provides voters with the confidence that their ballots are counted fairly and accurately. In-person voting fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility, reminding us all of the fundamental importance of participating in elections that shape our future.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support SB210.