

Submitter: Laura Eberly
On Behalf Of: Democracy
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

To The Senate Committee On Rules,

I strongly oppose SB210, which seeks to remove vote-by-mail as the standard voting method in Oregon. Mail-in voting is an outstanding standard voting option that encourages widespread participation in democracy while also allowing the voter ample time to sit down at their kitchen table with the voter's pamphlet and go through each item at their own pace before deciding how to mark their ballot.

Mail-in voting also removes barriers to voter participation including work hours and transportation to a polling place; and with mail-in voting as the standard voting option, those with physical mobility issues are not put upon to prove their need for special mail-in privileges in order to receive the mail-in voting option.

According to research detailed in the NPR article attached below:
"Let's put the vote-by-mail 'fraud' myth to rest.

"Over the past 20 years, more than 250 million ballots have been cast by mail nationwide, while there have been just 143 criminal convictions for election fraud related to mail ballots. That averages out to about one case per state every six or seven years, or a fraud rate of 0.00006%.

"While election experts say fraud in mail balloting is slightly more common than in in-person voting, it's still such a minuscule amount it's not statistically meaningful."

Here is the link to that article:

www.npr.org/2020/06/04/864899178/why-is-voting-by-mail-suddenly-controversial-heres-what-you-need-to-know?fbclid=IwY2xjawJWiMhleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHskJFEHWY86Eqyl_54Cc_yRfyQ8DZ24pxujW9zCej2aLth9iiZJz0_ydOw_aem_uR1LHDvDW9EPC6kKIYqcow#fraud

Our own Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division has detailed the extensive measures already in place to ensure the lowest possible opportunity for voter fraud, and in a study included on the Elections Division website, it too cites the negligible 0.00006% fraud rate arrived at following a study examining voter data from the years 2000-2019.

That study can be found through the Elections Division website and via this link:
www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2020%20Issue%20Review%20-

%20Oregon%20Vote%20by%20Mail.pdf

Quantifiable data continues to support vote-by-mail as an excellent way to ensure and encourage participation in America's essential democratic processes. To stifle this method is against democracy itself, and the founding principals of our nation as a democratic republic.

I urge you to strongly oppose the wildly unnecessary and undemocratic SB210.

Sincerely,

Laura Eberly
Monmouth, Oregon