

Submitter: Amanda Miles
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
March 30, 2025

In opposition to SB 210

To the members of the Oregon Legislature:

Are we really going to go backward? Oregon's vote-by-mail system was implemented more than 30 years ago when I was still a child. I have vague memories of going to a polling location with my mother when I was young. But ever since then, millions of voters from all corners of our great state have been able to take their time to peruse and ponder the issues and candidates on their ballots from the comforts of their own homes and to vote according to their conscience.

What is the rationale for this proposed change? Oregon vote-by-mail has experienced negligible amounts of fraud over three-plus decades. Some might argue that the recent registration of individuals who were ineligible to vote indicates the system is ripe for fraud, but I would argue that the system is working properly – it caught those errors and is correcting them to make sure they don't happen again.

I am an eligible voter. I support voting only for those who are eligible to vote. But we should not make it more difficult for the citizens of Oregon to exercise their constitutional right to vote by drastically narrowing the window and methods by which they can do so. For example, I am a nurse. For myself and many of my colleagues, we are at work for pretty much the entirety of the time that the polls would be open on Election Day. And our schedules can change on relatively short notice due to staffing needs and changes, rendering us unable to request mail-in ballots in time and unable to travel to a polling location in time. This bill could disenfranchise us and many others like us – especially because election days are not state or federal holidays.

This bill would make it much more difficult for so many Oregonians to vote: working parents – and anyone who works in general – those with disabilities, mobility issues or fragile health, and those who cannot afford to take time off from work to wait forever at a polling location. I suspect Oregonians in rural locations might have an especially difficult time, with fewer polling locations and long distances to travel to vote.

This bill is a solution to a nonexistent problem and will serve to disenfranchise Oregonians from exercising their legal right to vote. Please vote it down. The people of Oregon deserve a voting system that permits us to easily exercise our legal voting rights – and we already have one.

Sincerely,

Amanda Miles