

Submitter:

Kathy O'Reilly

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose SB210.

The current method of voting in Oregon works and is superior to the proposed in-person voting for the following reasons:

1. The state of Oregon has one of the highest voter turnout in the country, especially when compared to in-person voting. See <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/voter-turnout-by-state>
2. Oregon's current mail-in ballot voting system allows voters the time to research and think about their votes before casting them. It supplies numerous options for returning the ballot at the convenience of the voter. There is no need to leave work or close schools.
3. Oregon's current mail-in voting system discourages voter intimidation and avoids the need to police polling places.
4. In-person voting disproportionately disadvantages the poor voter who may have trouble getting away from work and rural voters who may have to travel significant distances to vote.
5. In-person voting disadvantages metro areas where wait times are likely to be longer.
6. Oregon's weather in November is often unpleasant which will further discourage in-person voting and decrease turnout.
7. Oregon's mail-in paper ballots are refractory to electronic interference. Voting machines produced by the two major manufacturers run on licensed software. The State of Oregon would not own or have access to that coding. For brevity, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_Systems_%26_Software
8. Oregon's mail-in paper ballots are the same for all Oregon voters. States with in-person voting must maintain two voting systems: in-person and an absentee (i.e. military, home bound etc.).
9. Keeping Oregon's current mail-in system is cost effective.
 1. The state will not have to purchase expensive voting machines and buy/lease the software to run them.
 2. The state will not have to arrange (identify, rent/lease) sufficient polling places to adequately serve the entire state population or staff those polling places.
 3. The state will not have to hire additional technical specialists to deal with the problems inherent in having enough machines to cover the entire state of Oregon.
 4. The state will avoid the lost productivity to the economy that comes from large numbers of voters needing to take off work to travel to their precincts, wait to vote, and travel back to their work place.

In summary, I strongly oppose SB210. The current voting system in Oregon works,

and I can see no advantages to the State of Oregon or its voters in changing to an in-person system.