

Submitter: Pam Vaughan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to the important issue of in-person voting. As a registered voter, I supported Oregon's 1998 Vote by Mail Initiative. I believed that it would improve voter engagement by making voting easier, more convenient. Based on several unintended consequences, I now feel that it alienates voters by creating an environment of distrust and we must return to in-person voting.

A 2022 KOIN poll found that 30% of Oregonians believed that there was fraud in our election system. Recent audits by the State show that errors in the Motor Voter and other registration methods contribute to fraudulent voter registration. The simple question "Are you a citizen?", without proof of citizenship, contaminates the voter rolls, whether through fraud, ignorance or miscommunication. Further impacting the public's trust is the lack of transparency. Once a ballot is separated from the signature envelope, a ballot cannot be tracked. Ballots can be added, subtracted or replaced before being counted.

Maintaining the voter rolls takes resources, which many counties do not have. Voter rolls contain many errors, including people who are registered at more than one address and people who are no longer eligible to vote. I personally have received multiple ballots in a single election, in my name, at an address I have lived at for more than 25 years. Voting in-person, with government issued identification, will provide a real-time update of the rolls.

Oregon voters will still be able to vote by mail. SB210 has provisions to receive and send your ballot via mail for those unable to vote in person. We have spent the last 27 years evaluating vote by mail. It's time to allow voters to decide what method serves Oregonians best and restore confidence in Oregon voting.