

March 30, 2025

Dear Oregon legislators,

I am sending this message to give testimony urging you to keep Oregon's universal mail-in voting method.

I am old enough to remember voting in person. My voting locations changed every election. I had to take my small children with me and try to keep them entertained while I waited in line and stood in the cardboard booth to vote. Several of my district numbers changed every election. So while I used my card to look up representatives and bills in the voter's pamphlet, there were always 3 or 4 people or bills that I had not researched because I got it wrong. It was incredibly frustrating.

John F Kennedy said "the ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." I keenly felt the insecurity of my ignorance when I was voting at the polls.

With mail-in voting, I have my ballot in front of me along with the voter's pamphlet and I have access to do online research to make me a more informed voter. I know that I have made better voting decisions across the board. I have more confidence in what I am voting for because I have everything in front of me.

I have friends and family with limited physical mobility. Their struggles to get to the polls and use physical polling stations silences them.

My daughter works as a nurse with medically fragile children. If she takes a day off work to vote in person, her patient's health is at risk.

I work with people who do not have cars or reliable child care or whose work schedules keep them from getting to in-person polls. They are all silenced without mail-in voting.

Democracy only works when all voices are heard. Please keep Oregon's mail-in voting.