

Submitter: David Fischer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210. As a concerned Oregon resident and voter, I believe this legislation would be detrimental to our state's democratic process and would create unnecessary barriers to voting for many Oregonians.

Oregon has been a pioneer in mail-in voting since implementing it statewide in 2000. For over two decades, our vote-by-mail system has been recognized nationally for its accessibility, security, and effectiveness in promoting voter participation. This system has become an integral part of our state's political identity and democratic infrastructure.

Eliminating mail-in voting would disproportionately impact:

- Rural voters who may need to travel significant distances to polling locations
- Elderly and disabled voters who face mobility challenges
- Working Oregonians who cannot easily take time off during standard polling hours
- Parents and caregivers who would need to arrange additional childcare to vote in person

Research consistently shows that mail-in voting increases voter turnout. According to the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Oregon has maintained one of the highest voter participation rates in the nation since implementing vote-by-mail. Removing this option would likely result in decreased civic participation.

Transitioning away from our established mail-in system would require:

- Significant investment in new polling infrastructure
- Training and hiring of additional poll workers
- Creating new systems for voter verification at polling stations

These costs would burden Oregon taxpayers unnecessarily.

Oregon's mail-in voting system has robust security measures including:

- Signature verification processes
- Ballot tracking systems
- Secure drop boxes throughout communities
- Comprehensive audit procedures

There is no evidence of significant fraud in Oregon's vote-by-mail system that would justify its elimination.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 210 and preserve Oregon's successful mail-in voting system. Instead of restricting voting access, we should be working to make our democratic processes more inclusive and accessible to all eligible voters. Oregon has been a model for other states in election administration, and we should continue to lead by example rather than regressing to more restrictive voting methods.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fischer