

Submitter:

Alicia Martinez

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

We have had vote by mail here in Oregon since the 90s. I tried looking up any records of mass voter fraud and found none. What I did find is that voter fraud is exceedingly rare. If we force people to go to the ballot box then we miss the opportunity to have community members participate by suppressing their voices. There are many reasons why it may not be feasible for someone to vote in person. Perhaps they have a disability (visible or not) that makes voting in person virtually impossible. Perhaps they have a lack of reliable transportation and cannot feasibly make it to or from the ballot box without incurring additional expense, or any other reason that could make transportation difficult. Perhaps they cannot miss work— we do not have protections in place for employed voters like DC and 28 other states, but even if we did, perhaps they need that income to survive and take care of their families. Are we really going to go backwards and force Oregonians to have to choose between getting paid or voting? This seems absurd. What this bill is actually about is suppressing voters because there are ELECTED officials who know they do not stand a chance of election or reelection if they don't find ways to dissuade those that would vote against them, especially those who find marginalized communities a threat. It is easier to control an election by putting up barriers to make it harder for citizens to vote than by making voting accessible to ensure anyone legally allowed to vote can participate with the minimum amount of barriers possible. I oppose this bill because I oppose what it is- voter suppression. The definition of suppression is to "forcibly put an end to" and to "prevent the development, action, or expression of (a feeling, impulse, idea, etc.); restrain," per Oxford Languages, the world's leading dictionary publisher, with over 150 years of experience creating and delivering authoritative dictionaries globally in more than 50 languages. To disallow mail-in voting by making in-person voting the standard method for conducting an election is to forcibly put an end to the ability of many voters. To disallow mail-in voting by making in-person voting the standard method for conducting an election is to prevent the action and expression of many voters.