

Submitter: Eric Mankowski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Oregon state senators,

I strongly oppose this bill because it will substantially reduce access to voting for a large percentage of registered voters.

To illustrate, here is a partial list of the people who will be unable or face significant barriers to voting:

1. workers whose job does not allow them paid time off on the day of the election, such as my brother-in-law;
2. workers whose job requires them unexpectedly to travel out of their polling area on the day of the election;
3. people who become disabled or injured within 21 days of the election and cannot travel to or wait in line at the nearest polling location, such as happened to me when I shattered my bone in a bicycle accident on November 3, 2018 and was in the ER and surgery room throughout the next 2 weeks -- I would not have been able to vote in person at the polls and would not have known to request an absentee ballot;
4. elderly people or other disabled people who cannot physically stand in line for hours, not knowing in advance how long the wait will be and whether they should therefore request an absentee ballot or not, such as my 95 year old mother in law would have to do;
5. people whose absentee ballot is not delivered expediently by the postal service; postmark not delivery should continue to define eligible votes;
6. parents and caregivers with children who become ill or have unpredictable needs arise on election day that require the parents to care for them that day rather than stand in line to vote.

The list goes on in the voices of many others who have provided testimony. Our ancestors fought for and established the right to free and fair voting in this country and in Oregon state. The number of people who would be disenfranchised from voting if this bill were passed is substantially larger than the number of proven fraudulent votes that have ever been cast in Oregon. Thus, the harm that this bill is purportedly intended to address is much smaller than the harm it will cause.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Mankowski
Professor