

Submitter: Jason Hilkey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would make in-person voting on election day the standard method for conducting elections.

This legislation would significantly restrict voters' access to the ballot box by limiting alternative voting methods that have proven successful in increasing participation and making our democracy more inclusive.

-Impact on Voter Access-

Making in-person voting on election day the standard method would:

1. Create barriers for citizens who cannot take time off work, have caregiving responsibilities, face transportation challenges, or have physical limitations that make traveling to polling places difficult.
2. Disproportionately affect elderly voters, voters with disabilities, rural voters, and those with unpredictable work schedules who rely on alternative voting methods.
3. Potentially lead to longer lines and wait times at polling places, further discouraging participation.

-Proven Benefits of Alternative Voting Methods-

Early voting and mail-in voting options have demonstrated clear benefits:

- Increased voter participation across diverse communities
- Reduced pressure on polling places on election day
- Provided voters flexibility to research candidates and issues
- Allowed election officials to process ballots more efficiently

-Security Considerations-

Multiple voting methods can maintain election integrity while expanding access:

- Mail-in ballots include verification processes such as signature matching
- Early voting locations maintain the same security protocols as election day sites
- Expanded voting options create redundancy that makes our elections more resilient

-Recommendation-

I urge you to reject this bill and instead support legislation that preserves and expands voting options, including early voting, mail-in ballots, and other proven methods that ensure all eligible citizens can exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Our democracy is strengthened when more eligible voters can participate. This bill moves us in the wrong direction by restricting, rather than expanding, access to the ballot.

Thank you for considering my testimony.