

Submitter: Emma Newman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I urge you to OPPOSE SB210. A few reasons why include:

1) Oregon's current vote by mail election system is often pointed to as one of the most accessible and inclusive in the country. It's working, don't break it.

2) Voting in person or having to request a mail-in ballot is cumbersome.

As a child in Massachusetts, I remember being hauled to the election parking lot and having to sit in the cold car while we waited for my dad to vote. Having knocked on doors in Wisconsin, I've seen first hand and heard stories about how requiring people to get to the polls on election day creates barriers to participating in our democracy. Many of us may think we can get to the polls on a certain day, but life is inherently unpredictable and our current vote by mail default system provides easier, more convenient, and more flexible options to help reduce barriers to voting.

3) Vote by mail allows time for research and intentional voting.

I enjoy being able to sit with my ballot at home and take the time to research the items on the ballot to make informed decisions. It makes it easier to meaningfully participate in our democratic process.

4) In-person elections are inefficient in that they require extensive labor and volunteer hours.

If the legislature is going to make changes that require more paid labor, please increase staffing at the DMV so that myself and others can get appointments to be able to get our Real ID. It was already difficult enough to get ID renewed when there were literally no appointments available in the months leading up to the deadline when I renewed my license last fall.

5) Keep the state paid mail-in postage.

Many people don't keep postage at their homes and we should not be adding more required steps to cast a vote since doing so reduces participation in our representative democracy.