

Submitter:

Barbara Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I have resided in 4 states and feel the most supported as a voter in Oregon. The state sends the voter pamphlet so we know what we're voting on who/what we're voting on. I appreciate being mailed my ballot instead of trying to find out online where I can vote and what the hours of operation are. This is cheap for the state and wonderful for voters.

I remember sitting at my kitchen table in Oregon and voting with my two week old baby in my lap while I was recovering from birth. I had stitches from an episiotomy and my breasts would leak milk if my baby fussed. Driving somewhere and waiting in line to vote with my two week old baby would have been really challenging and I may not have been able to participate in that election. I've had elder family members who would have struggled with the physical demands of voting if they'd had to go in-person and wait.

Additionally, I'd like to add that I knew someone in Georgia who didn't get to vote one year because he was rear ended on his way to vote. After dealing with that, he had to return to work and didn't have another opportunity to vote due to work and childcare obligations. Once when I was voting in North Carolina, an old white man in an expensive suit came and stood in the parking lot at stared at everyone who was arriving and leaving to vote. He said he was from DC and was making sure voting was going well. He didn't identify himself as an election either or any other government employee. It was unsettling to have him staring at me and the other voters, many of whom were solo women or Black, at night. These are things that Oregon voters don't have to worry about. The system works wonderfully and we have high rates of participation because we are supported.

I ask the Oregon legislature to keep mail-in voting for all voters. Vote by mail supports voters at all life stages, states of health, and makes voting accessible to non-drivers and people who work hourly jobs. It limits opportunities for voter intimidation. Vote by mail supports all registered voters in Oregon. Thank you.