

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB210 to restrict voting to in-person centers. It is no surprise that mail-in voting has become a politically charged subject since 2020 and 2024. Mail-in voting is ripe for fraud and a one-fourth of all Americans say voter fraud has become a major problem when it comes to mail-in voting. To prevent fraud, we must show an ID when we vote just as we are required to show a form of ID at the airport, government buildings, financial institutions, and during any other daily activities. There is no effective way for election officials to ensure that mail-in ballots are not requested fraudulently and sent in to compromise the vote results.

Mail-in voting also can lead to the practice of vote harvesting. Once mail ballots go out, harvesters show up at a voter's door and offer "voting assistance." They often appear friendly, and helpful. Successful vote harvesters leave with a voter's signature and a ballot that is blank, that is "correctly" voted, or that can be modified later. Or the harvester can simply discard the ballot if the voter chose the "wrong" candidate. Done effectively, the process is invisible to the voter, who is led to believe their ballot was cast according to their wishes.

Additionally, mail-in voting can promote voting under fraudulent voter registrations that either use a phony name and a real or fake address or claim residence in a particular area where the registered voter does not actually live and is not legally entitled to vote. It can also promote the fraudulent use of absentee ballots: Requesting absentee ballots and voting without the knowledge of the actual voter; or obtaining the absentee ballot from a voter and either filling it in directly and forging the voter's signature or illegally telling the voter for whom to vote. Lastly, mail-in voting can lead to altering the vote count.

In the recent elections, decisions were determined by less than 10 votes in some circumstances or by one-half of a percentage point. How can those results be verifiable and authentic when our own state government does not take this responsibility seriously and fails to adopt policies sufficient to secure our elections against fraud, including efforts by noncitizens to vote. The right of American citizens to have their votes properly counted and tabulated, without illegal dilution, is vital to determining the rightful winner of an election.

In-person voting and the requirement of a valid Federal or State government-issue photo identification will serve to protect our individual voting rights and preserve our democracy. In-person voting prevents a voter intentionally giving false information

when voting, it prevents someone from voting more than once in a federal or state election and it will prevent voting by individuals who are not U.S. citizens, are convicted felons, or are otherwise not eligible to vote.

Again, I support SB210 to restrict voting to in-person centers and to refer the measure to the Oregon residents.