

## Testimony in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 210

Submitted to the Oregon State Legislature

March 30, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Senate and the Senate Committee on Rules,

I write to you today as a proud Oregonian and a staunch advocate for the integrity, security, and pride of our democratic process. Senate Bill 210 represents a bold, necessary, and long-overdue step forward in restoring trust and accountability to our elections. I urge you to support this legislation with unwavering resolve and to send a clear message that Oregon will not bow to complacency or convenience at the expense of electoral integrity.

For too long, our state has clung to a vote-by-mail system that, while convenient for some, opens the door to doubt, inefficiency, and potential abuse. SB 210 rightfully reestablishes in-person voting on Election Day as the standard method for conducting elections—a return to the civic tradition that fosters community, responsibility, and a tangible sense of participation in our republic. Voting in person is not a burden; it is a privilege, a duty, and a powerful expression of our shared American values. This bill ensures that Oregonians can once again feel the weight and honor of casting their ballots together, as a united people, rather than relying on a faceless, mail-based process that dilutes the sanctity of the vote.

Equally critical is SB 210's requirement for valid government-issued identification to vote or request a ballot. This is not a radical demand—it is common sense. Identification is required to board a plane, purchase alcohol, or even check out a library book, yet we have allowed our most sacred democratic act to proceed without this basic safeguard.

Opponents may cry "suppression," but this is a hollow scare tactic. Requiring ID ensures that every vote cast is legitimate, protecting the rights of every lawful voter by preventing fraud and confusion. Oregonians deserve an election system they can trust, not one shrouded in ambiguity or ripe for exploitation.

SB 210 also demonstrates compassion and practicality by preserving mail-in options for those truly unable to vote in person—our deployed military heroes, the disabled, and out-of-state residents. This balance proves that security and accessibility need not be at odds; they can and must coexist.

The time for half-measures and excuses is over. Oregon must lead by example, showing the nation that we value our elections enough to protect them with clear, enforceable standards. I implore you to pass SB 210 and refer it to the people for approval, as this bill

wisely mandates. Let the voters decide—they are ready for a system that respects their voice and defends their democracy.

Anything less than full support for SB 210 is a betrayal of the public trust and a surrender to those who would rather see our elections weakened than strengthened. Stand up for Oregon. Stand up for integrity. Pass Senate Bill 210 now.

Sincerely,

Jane Clemo

Gaston, Oregon