

Submitter: Amy Magee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon, thereby limiting the accessibility and convenience of our current vote-by-mail system.

As a resident and voter who has participated in elections across California, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, I have firsthand experience with various voting methods. In Idaho, I once stood in line for four hours with three children under the age of five to cast my vote. This challenging experience highlighted the significant barriers that in-person voting can present, especially for parents and individuals with demanding schedules.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been instrumental in ensuring my consistent participation in elections, not just during major cycles but in every local and state election as well. The flexibility to vote by mail or drop off my ballot has empowered me to fulfill my civic duty without undue hardship. Every election matters, and every vote counts; maintaining accessible voting methods is crucial to upholding these principles.

Furthermore, Oregon's vote-by-mail system is both secure and reliable. Ballots are mailed to registered voters, who then have the option to return them via mail or at official drop boxes. To ensure the integrity of the process, voters must sign the ballot return envelope, and this signature is meticulously compared to the one on their voter registration card by election officials. Only after this verification is the ballot counted, safeguarding against fraudulent voting. Additionally, Oregon conducts post-election reviews after every election that includes a federal or statewide contest, further ensuring the accuracy and trustworthiness of our electoral process. ? ? ?

Transitioning to an in-person voting system, as proposed by SB 210, would not only impose unnecessary challenges on voters but also undermine the proven security and efficiency of our current system. The proposed requirement for voters to present valid government-issued identification when voting in person or requesting a mail-in ballot adds another layer of potential disenfranchisement for eligible voters who may face difficulties obtaining such identification.

I urge you to consider the detrimental impact that SB 210 would have on voter

participation and the accessibility of our elections. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has set a commendable standard for electoral accessibility and security. Dismantling this system in favor of mandatory in-person voting would be a significant step backward for our state's democratic process.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy Magee