

Submitter:

Pamela Hayes

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 210. Twenty two years ago I moved from Washington State, which at the time required in person voting on election day, to Oregon, which offered vote-by-mail. Having experienced both systems, I know that vote-by-mail is superior to in-person voting for many reasons. These include: 1) There are no surprises on election day. With vote-by-mail, I have my ballot in front of me for a week or longer. I can see every measure and race and can work through the entire ballot over many days, researching each initiative, measure, and candidate. When I voted in person I always encountered a race (judges, lesser known positions on SWCDs, etc) that I had not expected. Since voting-by-mail, I have been able to research and vote on every race and measure. 2) I have voted in every election since moving to Oregon thanks to the flexibility of vote-by-mail. I used to work 12-hour shifts, which would have made voting in person essentially impossible. Vote-by-mail means that citizens do not have to be available on election day. I very strongly urge you NOT to pass SB 210. Vote by mail is an excellent secure system that encourages an engaged citizenry.