

Submitter: Ariel Kaplan  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210  
To the Committee,

Please OPPOSE the voter-suppression bill SB210.

Oregon recently had the highest voter turnout in the country. Vote by mail is just as safe as in-person voting. "Fraud" is incredibly rare.

The only reason to require people to vote in person is to reduce voter turnout.

Oregonians have been using vote-by-mail since the 1990s. We know what to expect. If you change how we vote, there will be a lot of people who expect to get a ballot in the mail with no action on their part. Many of these people will likely lose their opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to make their voice heard.

This bill does allow Oregonians to request a ballot, but they would still need to go in person to make that request at least 3 weeks ahead of time. This is, obviously, an additional burden that requires planning time, transportation arrangements, and possible financial impact if they need to take time off work or pay for childcare.

How much would this cost us? Aside from the additional time and money lost by both voters and government employees handling registration in person, we would need to set up the physical infrastructure of polling places, voting machines, and paying people to manage the polling stations.

Would YOU want to stand in line for hours in our PNW rain waiting to vote, while taking time off work? Or would you rather do it on your couch at your convenience?

Our elections in Oregon are safe. Fraud is incredibly rare. We notify people when there is something wrong with their ballot so they can cure it. Our democracy is stronger when every eligible voter is able to vote, and that means doing it conveniently.

Again, this is a voter-suppression bill. Please OPPOSE.

Thank you.

Sources:

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/01/03/oregon-leads-nation-in-voter-turnout-rates/>

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/elections/us-polling-places/oregon-voting-by-mail-strong-for-decades/>

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/politics/elections/oregon-election-security-ballots-fraud-voter/283-a0529d07-2f2b-4814-bf39-b92608bc7a8f>