

Submitter: Sybil Donley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

First, the in-person voter ID requirement is contrary to voter registration requirements. When a citizen registers to vote, they may provide alternate proof of eligibility beyond a driver's license, passport or state issued ID card (per the Oregon Voter Registration Card application), but this bill would not permit those forms of identification to cast a ballot.

Second, it is discriminatory. Requiring a driver's license, passport or state issued ID creates a burden for people who do not have ready cash or transportation, as it requires them to travel to a site issuing IDs and pay \$47 per ID.

Third, voting by mail has numerous benefits, and Oregon's system is a stellar model for other states. Mail-in voting:

- increases voter participation. A Stanford University study found that voting turnout increased by 2% in states with vote-by-mail options. In addition, it doesn't favor one party over another. The same study found that the increase in voting changed the amount of voting but not the composition of eligible voters. It didn't favor any racial, age, or economic groups.
- creates better-informed voters by allowing voters more time to consider their votes, increasing down-ballot engagement. This is as compared with in-person voting.
- reduces the cost of recruiting and training poll workers, allowing local election officials and county election officials to focus on other problems.
- eases the task of finding suitable polling locations.
- reduces ballot fraud. The conservative Heritage Foundation examined the record in Oregon, finding 14 cases of attempted mail fraud out of 15.5 million ballots cast -- an incredibly low incidence compared with traditional voting methods.
- allows people to avoid long polling lines on election day, ensuring that elderly, disabled, working, caregiving and transportation challenged voters can participate in elections without unnecessary burdens
- paper ballots can be manually counted in case of a recount

Oregon's voting system is exceptional, and this Senate Bill would only degrade it.