

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

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There is no need to change the voting methods in the state of Oregon simply because conservatives are convinced there's fraud. More often than not, when examples of voter fraud have been proven around the country, it's been the result of conservatives doing it. An example over the last few years involved a man casting his own vote along with one for his deceased wife because he didn't see the problem with that.

As for vote-by-mail, it is and has been secure, especially in Oregon where it's been a model of convenience and safety with protections in place to check signatures and quickly verify a vote has been counted. The push to move away from vote-by-mail is not to limit fraud, it's mainly to disenfranchise citizens to vote, particularly those who would have difficulty getting to polling sites on the day of the election for a variety of reasons.

We've already seen other states close down and limit polling places in minority-heavy neighborhoods, forcing long lines instead of quick in and out stops, which causes many to stay home instead of exercising their right to vote. We do not need this coming to Oregon.

Efforts to restrict voting to in-person, require ID, and so on have typically made it more of a hindrance for the poor and minorities to go through the necessary steps to prove some level of citizenship that was never a problem before, and in many cases it's hard to impossible to get valid documentation from decades in the past.

The push to do away with vote-by-mail is a thinly-veiled attempt to give more voting power back to primarily white males, and conservatives in Oregon are already upset that the denser population centers that are primarily left-leaning have more power than they do in rural areas with few people across many square miles of land. That's why so many of them want to become part of Idaho.

Ending vote-by-mail in Oregon would be a massive mistake. Do not cater to sore losers who see no other path to regaining power except to limit the rights of others not like them.