

Submitter: joshua pritikin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Distinguished Committee Members,

I write to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which would fundamentally alter Oregon's successful vote-by-mail system that has served our state well for decades.

This bill proposes drastic changes that would create unnecessary barriers to voting, particularly for our most vulnerable citizens. By making in-person voting the standard method and requiring government-issued photo ID, this legislation would disproportionately impact elderly voters, voters with disabilities, rural voters, working families, and those with limited transportation options.

Oregon has been a national leader in election accessibility and security since implementing our vote-by-mail system in 1998. Our current system has repeatedly proven to be secure, cost-effective, and accessible. Voter fraud in Oregon remains exceedingly rare, and when isolated incidents occur, our existing safeguards detect them effectively.

The proposed ID requirements would create a solution to a problem that does not exist while imposing real hardship on legitimate voters. Many Oregonians, particularly elderly citizens, those with disabilities, and low-income residents, may lack government-issued photo identification or face significant obstacles in obtaining it.

Additionally, removing the state's obligation to pay for ballot return postage places an unfair financial burden on voters. Even a small cost can discourage participation, especially among those with limited financial resources.

The bill also limits ballot return options by requiring all ballots be returned by election day, eliminating the current postmark rule that ensures voters who mail their ballots on election day have their votes counted.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 210 and protect Oregon's time-tested voting system that has consistently delivered high turnout, exceptional security, and broad accessibility. Let's not reverse decades of progress in making our democracy more inclusive and participatory.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Pritikin