

Submitter:

Elizabeth Fox

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Vote by mail was an initiative brought by the citizens of Oregon in the late 1980's. We worked hard to make it happen and it's working, why abandon it now? Of course, I know the reasons why this is happening, opponents of vote by mail don't want democrats to win. They also feel that fraud is rampant in the system, which isn't the case. I believe they seek to disenfranchise minorities who might not have time or are too intimidated to come to a polling place.

I would hazard a guess that MOST of the opponents of vote by mail don't even remember what a hassle it was to vote in person, if they ever did. Voting in person requirements also are terrible during flu season and since that goes from October through May in Oregon, it would increase disease transmission. Also, voting by mail insures that voters are more informed and have more time to deliberate their choices, they aren't hurrying to get done so the next person in line can vote. Finally, vote by mail makes it easier for those with disabilities of all kinds to be able to vote.

Mail balloting has several advantages over traditional polling:

First, it is cost effective.

Second, it has resulted in increased participation among voters.

Third, it is easier for election officials to conduct.

Fourth, it allows for a more accurate picture of eligible voters, by keeping voting lists up-to-date.

Fifth, it gives voters a longer opportunity to study the ballot and find answers to their questions.

Please do not reverse this law. Thank you for your consideration.