

Submitter: Scott Carlile

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

SB 210 is a calculated attack on democracy, pushed by the far-right, Trump-aligned wing of the GOP to suppress voter participation under the false pretense of “election security.” Oregon’s vote-by-mail system has long been a national model of accessibility and integrity, ensuring high voter turnout and secure elections. Yet, this bill seeks to dismantle that success by imposing in-person voting requirements, erecting unnecessary ID barriers, and stripping away state-funded ballot postage. These are not improvements—they are intentional obstacles, designed to make it harder for working-class, elderly, disabled, and rural voters to cast their ballots.

This bill is a textbook example of modern voter suppression, mirroring tactics used in other Republican-controlled states where elections are being rigged before a single vote is cast. The GOP, still operating under Trump’s anti-democratic influence, knows that higher voter turnout spells disaster for their extremist policies. Instead of competing on ideas, they resort to tactics that disproportionately silence communities of color, young voters, and those who struggle with transportation or time off work—groups that are less likely to vote Republican.

SB 210 is not about safeguarding democracy; it’s about controlling it. It’s an authoritarian power grab, designed to shrink the electorate and secure one-party rule. Oregonians must recognize this for what it is: an assault on their fundamental right to vote, driven by fear and desperation from a party that knows it cannot win on a fair playing field. We must reject SB 210 outright and fight to protect the accessibility and fairness of our elections before it's too late.