

Submitter: Marcello Petri
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

****Testimony in Opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 210****

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210 (SB 210), which seeks to dismantle Oregon's successful vote-by-mail system and introduce unnecessary barriers to voting. Oregon's mail-in voting system has been a model for the nation, providing accessible, secure, and convenient voting options for all citizens, regardless of their location or ability to vote in person.

This bill would require in-person voting on Election Day as the primary method, undoing decades of progress and threatening the inclusivity of our electoral process. The current vote-by-mail system has proven to increase voter participation and provide opportunities for all Oregonians, including those who may have difficulty traveling to polling places, such as people with disabilities, elderly citizens, rural residents, and those with work or family obligations. By forcing in-person voting as the standard, SB 210 risks disenfranchising these groups.

Additionally, the provision that removes the requirement for the state to cover postage costs for mail-in ballots would create unnecessary financial barriers for voters, particularly for those in low-income communities. The state has an obligation to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their ballot without financial strain, and removing postage assistance would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our society.

The implementation of voter identification requirements for mail-in ballots and in-person voting is another cause for concern. These measures could be a significant burden for many voters who do not have access to government-issued IDs, further alienating already marginalized communities. It is essential that our state continues to prioritize easy access to voting for all residents, not restrict it with additional red tape.

The successful implementation of Oregon's vote-by-mail system has led to higher voter turnout and has become a cornerstone of our democratic process. SB 210 undermines the accessibility and integrity of our elections. I urge you to reject this bill and continue to protect Oregon's model of democracy that ensures every eligible voter has the right and opportunity to participate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcello Petri
Portland, Oregon