

Submitter: Richard Brewer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Doing away with mail-in voting would spell doom for election fairness. Limiting voting to specified polling locations disproportionately affects the poor and those with mobility barriers, and opens up the process to deliberate blocking of ability to reach polling locations by placing them in hard to reach locations. It also makes it difficult for rural communities to vote. Furthermore, by removing the ability to vote by mail, the working class is effectively barred from participation as you obviously can't shut down business for a day, and employers, especially large corporations, are likely to punish employees for trying to take time off to vote. This is the first step in a slippery slope toward such vile acts as political gerrymandering and the last minute of closing of polling locations to deliberately restrict people from reaching them, as well as intentionally causing excessive lines to cast votes, acts that traditionally plague deep red states. The historical evidence supports the fact that mail-in voting is more secure, more fair, and more accessible to Oregon voters, and removing this would be just another strike against the democratic principles we supposedly hold dear.