

Submitter: Jane Harloff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 210

I am writing in opposition to SB 210, which will effectively end our safe, secure, easy and inclusive mail-in voting method in the state of Oregon. Mail-in voting has been the norm here for over 25 years, and allows people time to study and read the text of issues thoroughly, and to vote in the convenience and privacy of their own homes. Oregon's voter turn-out rates have soared with the adoption of the vote-by-mail measure.

Voting-by-mail allows working people, parents, students, elderly folks, disabled people and those who travel for business or pleasure to vote at their convenience. It allows those who cannot drive, people who are battling auto-immune or other medical conditions, who cannot be out in public, and single parents without childcare options the ease of voting at home, without having to make tremendous accommodations to exercise their right to vote.

In addition, given the polarity of our country right now, having to show up to vote at a voting precinct – which was historically staffed by older, retired folks – could be potentially threatening or even dangerous. I recall voting booths being located in my grade school as a child. Given today's divisive political climate, I would greatly oppose having this be the case today. Where would we find a safe place to locate precincts, and who would staff and guard them? Who would pay for that level of security?

Instead of reverting to the archaic method of voting in person, let's have Oregon lead the way for the rest of the country to the most sane and safe method of voting:

VOTE BY MAIL!

Submitted by Jane Harloff