

Submitter: Ron Hyde
On Behalf Of: The disabled community
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Representatives,

Let me begin my testimony by making one thing very clear. Myself and those in my peer groups (I belong to several spinal cord injury groups) find it demeaning and offensive when referred to as a reason mail in voting should be the norm. I can assure you that this is NOT true. This topic has arose many times over the years and we prefer strongly IN PERSON voting. I can tell you I much preferred going to a polling place, wheel my but up to the wheelchair height polling station, and start making choices. I know that 100% my vote is both accounted for abd secure. I preferred the sense of community it gave me, a chance to interact in person with others in my community. There was a sense of patriotism while waiting to vote, speaking with others, the kind of buzz you got at a Blazer game in the 1992 playoffs, we were together. That has been reduced to sitting at my dining room table then wheeling to the end of the block to stuff it into a mailbox. Now that I think about it, it took more effort to go from my house to the mailbox than my car to the polling station. In 2004 I stopped receiving mail for about a week, I thought it was odd, no junk mail or anything, then my mail resumed. Then about a month later I received a HUGE envelope from the Seattle postmaster with a letter and a huge amount of my mail. They informed me that my mail was recovered from a house in Clackamas that was an ID theft ring, No one else on the entire street but me. My mail was being stolen within the POSTAL SYSTEM ITSELF. Let me repeat this, I had my mail stolen by a POSTAL EMPLOYEE. Ever since that experience I have had zero confidence in postal security, and have driven to a drop off box on election night ever since, mail in voting is useless to me.

Fraud: As a wheelchair user I know and experience the results of fraudulent use of handicapped parking permits. Ive encountered people who "borrowed" them to get a spot at places like Costco, Moda Center, or to take advantage of free parking privileges. I've had friends ask to borrow mine! What I wouldn't give to have a photo of the registered user put on the pass....you have no idea. In my groups we have discussed the issue of fraud in the SSI and SSDI systems. I cant count how many times I've encountered individuals in much better physical shape than myself getting a disability check and all of thenother benefits that go with it. I'm a dude in a wheelchair that's been getting my but out of bed and going to the same employer for 36 years, I have a job, why doesn't he/she?

So, back to voting. After my postal experience, I am beyond certain that our mail system is secure. Ask yourself this, would you put \$1,000 in cash and mail it back to yourself? And we all know that there were cases of mail in ballots being dumped. Second, I feel our motor voter concept should go, since it may "accidentally" make ineligible voters, voters. Make no mistake about it, I am certain you will see a shift if

we go to in-person, I.D. required voting. Making for a more honest outcome for our Republic. That's what I want! I want back the feeling that my vote really counted, and those who are ineligible didn't corrupt the outcome. There is NO VALID REASON for mail in voting to exist. If people are too damn lazy to go to a polling place, their opinion shouldn't count anyway. Sure, we will have to make FEW exceptions. Those that are medically incapacitated can submit a letter from their licensed physician, and of course those over seas. Personally, i would consider volunteering in the ballot counting process. In fact, it may not be a bad idea to have oversight personnel in attendance from the public. The selection process to be replicated like jury duty.

In closing, please let me reiterate that the disabled are not to be used as an excuse for this flawed system to continue. In fact, I feel that if it does remain in place, that is a sign that it is being abused. I STRONGLY SUPPORT IN-PERSON VOTING.