

Submitter: Simone Cordery-Cotter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Chair Jama and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I would ask that you vote to oppose this bill. It would fly in the face of the state's legacy as the first state in the union to become all Vote By Mail in 2000. Voting by mail allows voters the time to sit with their ballot and make measured, informed decisions about the political issues important to them and their community. This past year I delighted in sitting down with my booklet and using it as a research guide to learn more about the measures, initiatives, and candidates that seek to solve complex problems and improve the lives of the people of Oregon. Being an informed voter is even more critical now, in the age of misinformation and news outlets owned by private interests. It takes time to think critically and evaluate sources. I personally need several hours to invest in research to ensure I am voting in a way that reflects my values. As one of your voters, I would please ask that you continue to protect the VBM system that enhances the state's voter turnout and ensures that our democracy is as representative as possible. Please also consider the impacts that this bill would have should it pass - Election Day is not a holiday, and it's not feasible for everyone to take time to go vote in person. Further barriers arise for rural communities with seniors and people with limited mobility. This bill would disenfranchise many of Oregon's voters, and while we can be a bit spicy, it is a fundamental right to be able to cast our vote to determine who represents us in key political decisions. The VBM system ensures that as many voices as possible are heard, and that is crucial to a democratic state. Please oppose SB 210.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. I appreciate your work and your time.

Sincerely,
Simone Cordery-Cotter