

Submitter: Ian Watts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Having spent many hours doing volunteer work to observe elections in Marion County, verifying voter rolls and encouraging voter participation, I strongly support SB210.

When verifying voter rolls in Marion County, the team of volunteers that I worked with found an error rate of nearly 30%. What this means is that nearly 30% of the voter rolls did not match reality. The errors ranged from people who had moved, people who were registered to non-existent addresses, people registered to businesses as their home addresses, etc. This is an untold story in Oregon and is a direct consequence of mail-in voting.

Security of Oregon elections is low if it exists at all. There isn't verification that an actual resident of Oregon is submitting a ballot. Due to loopholes in the registration system, it is theoretically possible to register under multiple names and addresses and to submit multiple ballots, even without being a resident of the state of Oregon.

Oregon's voting laws are often in direct contradiction to federal voting laws. The HAVA act (federal law) requires ID, but Oregon ignores this. HAVA requires curing of over-votes but Oregon ignores this. Airlines check ID's for flights, stores check ID to buy cigarettes or alcohol, the elections office checks ID to observe elections, but ID is not a requirement to vote.

Why do we continue to have a voting system with little to no security that often violates federal law?

The lax system for voting benefits those who know how to manipulate the loopholes.

In-person voting on the date of an election is the common-sense approach used by most developed countries in the world. It's time to fix our voting system.