

Submitter:

Jill Crawford Hurt

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210. Oregon's current voting system is an effective, efficient, and accessible system for all Oregonians. This proposed change is unnecessary and would lead to widespread problems, lack of accessibility for many citizens, and unnecessary expense.

Our mail-in system is a legacy to honor and trust: Mail-in voting was first approved for a test run in 1981 by the Oregon Legislature, and by 1987 was made permanent and a majority of counties were using it for local and special elections. By 1993, Oregon held the first special statewide election by mail, and from there vote by mail continued to expand. It is inefficient to attempt to roll out in-person voting when our mail-in system has operated smoothly and trouble free for generations.

Voting by mail allows voters to carefully consider each candidate and ballot measure before casting a vote. Informed voters make informed choices. And voting by mail empowers more individuals to participate in our American democracy. There is no choice more patriotic than continuing vote by mail. Voting is the most powerful tradition in America and we owe it to ourselves and to everyone in Oregon to protect and encourage the democratic right to vote by continuing the proven, time tested mail in ballot.