

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Requiring in-person voting on the date of an election removes decades of precedent and would be a logistical challenge in Oregon cities and towns. The vote-by-mail system has been proven to be secure and efficient. It allows voters to make sure their votes are counted even if they happen to have a busy day or week during election day. This solves a problem with in-person voting, especially in the US, where we don't hold a holiday to increase voter turnout, and which would have increased severity if in-person voting were restricted to the day of the election only. In-person voting is already made secure and efficient through the Oregon Motor Voter Act.

If election security is the main concern for which SB 210 was introduced, then repealing a law with a proven track record without offering alternatives besides what was done over two decades ago shows this is a premature idea at best. Keeping vote-by-mail and introducing further security could involve ideas like:

- Requiring annual voter registration (via the same Motor Voter Act process) to verify a voter's eligibility.

- Vote hash validation with public/private key verification for voters to verify that their votes were counted correctly and for the state to confirm the ballot matches the voter's identity.

I'd also like to highlight that this statement in the SB 210 Staff Measure Summary: "It removes language concerning the number of voting booth required in each county, based on population, and gives the Secretary of State, in consultation with county clerks, rulemaking authority to determine the minimum number of booths required.", gives too much power to the Secretary of State and removes the logical choice to have the number of voting booths based on population. The minimum number of booths should be based on population, with a variable maximum that can be based on logistical overhead.