

Submitter:

Alexandra Stern

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As a former resident of other states, Oregon's Vote by Mail is absolutely the best voting system I have participated in throughout my nearly 40 years of voting. It boosts turnout and makes it far easier for those who cannot easily get to a polling place to cast their votes — anyone with mobility issues or who works one or more jobs benefits immeasurably from voting by mail, and in this age of COVID and other diseases that spread in crowds, voting by mail keeps everyone safer and makes it possible for the immunocompromised to participate at all.

VBM also allows for very methodical and thoughtful voting by an informed electorate. When I vote, I take hours to thoroughly go through the pamphlet, online statements and interviews, etc. and compare the merits of different candidates and measures, then fill in my ballot with the benefit of having been able to do the research in real time, taking all the time I need.

To end VBM would be to disenfranchise an impossibly large number of Oregonians, if not all of us. If anything, more states should adopt the standard instead of rolling it back here.