

Submitter: Nicholas Cerveny
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 210
Submitted to the 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
March 30, 2025

Honorable Senators,

I stand before you today in strong support of Senate Bill 210, a measure that restores integrity, honor, and trust to our electoral process. Election Day should be special—a sacred duty and privilege for every citizen. Yet, the current vote-by-mail system dilutes this significance, turning a unifying civic moment into a prolonged, impersonal transaction. SB 210 rightly shifts the standard back to in-person voting on Election Day, requiring voters to present valid government-issued photo ID. This is a common-sense step to safeguard our democracy, and I urge you to pass it.

The appearance of voter fraud is as damaging as fraud itself. When trust erodes—when ballots are mailed out, returned over weeks, and counted without clear identity verification—voters feel suppressed, not empowered. Doubts linger: Are these votes legitimate? Are they truly from eligible citizens? SB 210 addresses this head-on by making in-person voting the norm, ensuring that every ballot cast is tied to a verified individual present at the polls. With voting booths open until at least 8 p.m. and accommodations for those in line, this bill prioritizes access while securing the process.

Critics may argue that requiring ID creates barriers. But let's be consistent: if ID is too burdensome for voting, why do we require it to board a plane, buy alcohol, purchase firearms, or even access marijuana? These activities, while important, don't carry the weight of choosing our leaders. If we accept ID requirements there, we must accept them here. The bill defines valid ID broadly—Oregon driver's licenses, state IDs, passports, or military IDs—ensuring accessibility while upholding a standard we already live by in everyday life. For those unable to vote in person, SB 210 still allows mail ballots upon request, balancing convenience with security.

Election Day should be a shared moment of civic pride, not a drawn-out process clouded by skepticism. In-person voting with ID, as proposed in SB 210, all but guarantees fraud is minimized and trust is restored. I respectfully ask you to vote yes, sending this bill to the people for approval in the next general election. Let Oregon lead the way in making elections both sacred and secure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Cerveny