

Submitter: Alma V Saucedo  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

A recent article by Koin News reporter Jenna Deml is worth quoting at length:

"Only seven other states – and Washington, D.C. – even send mail ballots to all registered voters without requiring them to request one first: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

According to Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read, upholding the current voting system is critical, as Oregon — which implemented the Oregon Motor Voter Act in 2016— is among states leading the nation in voter turnout.

“The model that we have in Oregon is something that’s a model for the country and allowing people the convenience of voting on their own time, using paper ballots that are signature verified, our systems are a gold standard in that respect,” Read said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the rate of voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election was among the highest in over a century across the U.S. with almost 67% of eligible voters casting their ballots on Election Day."

My question is why was this bill even introduced? If Oregon currently has something akin to "the gold standard" for conducting elections, why would "we the people" consider changing our current system?

It is inappropriate and disingenuous for anyone (let alone an elected official who gained office via mailed ballots) to suggest our current voting system in Oregon is in need of fixing by ending vote by mail.