

Submitter:

Emily Young

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

This proposed bill seeks to increase barriers to voting, something that anyone who wants everyone's voice to be democratically heard should oppose without due cause or accommodation. If there were evidence that voting by mail substantially increased voter fraud that would be just cause to impose additional limits which restrict the ease of voting. No such evidence exists. If voting by mail increased costs and had no benefits, this could be a reason to make this change. Even in such a case, though, there should be accommodations--such as a state holiday and free public methods of transportation to polling places (+ any other accommodations for disabilities)--to offset the increased logistical hassle imposed but requiring in-person voting. Our democracy should be taking steps forward to improve people's engagement with government, not going backwards. Limits on how to vote have historically been used as a proxy for discrimination against marginalized groups of people. Intent aside, the outcome remains. Keep Oregon fair; don't pass this bill.