

Submitter: Lee Bryan  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write to strongly oppose SB 210 which seeks to repeal Oregon's vote-by-mail system and reintroduce barriers to voting that are unjust at best and weaponized at worst. This bill is not only a step backward in the fight for equitable access to the democratic process but it also will disenfranchise countless voters. Why would you possibly support a measure that is antithetical to democratic values and discriminatory to its people? Why would you possibly support a measure that is able to and has been wielded as a partisan weapon by deliberately affecting voter turnout of specific demographics?

Oregon's vote-by-mail system provides a lifeline to individuals who may otherwise struggle to vote. People with disabilities, elderly voters, rural residents, low-income individuals, and people of color often face significant barriers to in-person voting. By requiring in-person voting on Election Day, SB 210 disproportionately impacts those who do not have the means to travel to a polling location, do not have access to reliable transportation, are forced to work that day, or have mobility impairments or disabilities. We cannot be truly democratic while deliberately reintroducing voter obstacles for vulnerable groups who already face systemic inequalities in our society while the current system we have works fine.

We live in an era where public health concerns, economic disruptions, and the Trump administration are rapidly changing ways people work, interact, and engage in civic life in unprecedented and hard-to-predict ways. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has proven to be a reliable, safe, and secure way to conduct elections in the face of these challenges such as we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 210 disregards the lessons we have learned in those trying times and fails to acknowledge the necessity of having a voting system that can adapt to unforeseen circumstances. Oregon voters need a voting system that is resilient, accessible, and able to withstand future challenges.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is one of the key reasons why the state has some of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. We should not be dismantling a system that has proven successful in making elections more inclusive and accessible. SB 210 will roll back progress in expanding ballot access and increasing voter participation. Not only will it roll back progress, it has the potential to be weaponized to make reclaiming that progress in the future much more difficult by skewing voter turnout through targeting these vulnerable populations. It is crucial that we stand firm

in support of our vote-by-mail system which has long been a model of inclusivity, accessibility, and democracy for all Oregonians, especially in this time where human rights and the American democratic process are under such threat. Do the right thing in a political environment that is increasingly trying to bully you into submission. Be on the right side of history. Be brave.

Sincerely,  
Lee Bryan