

Submitter: Donna Meeuwsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I oppose Senate bill 210

I am writing today to express my strong support for maintaining the current mail-in voting system in Oregon. As a proud resident of this state, and as a 52-year-old woman that has only voted for mail my entire life, I firmly believe that our mail-in voting system is a cornerstone of accessibility, security, and democratic participation. The narrative that is being pushed by the conservatives is false. It has been proven false, there is no widespread fraud. This is a fact that has been proven time and time again. Lawsuit after lawsuit has deemed this claim as a false narrative. It is a lie. Mail-in voting in Oregon should stay the same as it has been for decades and here are the reasons why.

Increased Accessibility for All Voters

Mail-in voting allows all eligible Oregonians—regardless of physical ability, geographic location, or work schedule—to participate in the democratic process. For people with disabilities, seniors, rural residents, and those with unpredictable work schedules, mail-in ballots ensure that voting is accessible to everyone. It provides a level playing field where no one is excluded due to logistical barriers such as long wait times at polling stations or transportation challenges.

Security and Integrity

Oregon's mail-in voting system has proven to be secure and reliable. Since implementing mail-in ballots, Oregon has seen a record of clean, transparent elections. With strict verification processes, including signature matching and careful auditing of each vote, mail-in voting has consistently safeguarded the integrity of our elections. Additionally, Oregon's system has reduced the potential for human error and confusion, ensuring that every vote counts.

High Voter Turnout

The ability to vote by mail has contributed to historically high voter turnout in Oregon, one of the highest in the nation. This increased participation means that more voices are heard in our state's elections, which strengthens our democracy. Studies have shown that making voting more accessible—especially through mail-in voting—leads to greater civic engagement and a more representative government.

Cost-Effectiveness

Maintaining a robust mail-in voting system has proven to be a cost-effective solution for Oregon. It reduces the need for large numbers of physical polling locations, staff,

and other logistical expenses associated with in-person voting. This allows state resources to be used efficiently, all while maintaining a high level of service and voter accessibility.

Convenience for Voters

The convenience of voting by mail empowers citizens to cast their vote at their own pace, without the pressure of long lines or busy polling stations. It ensures that voters have enough time to research candidates and issues thoroughly, leading to more informed and thoughtful voting decisions.

In conclusion, Oregon's mail-in voting system has demonstrated its value in ensuring accessibility, security, and high voter participation. I strongly urge you to maintain and protect the current mail-in voting process, as it provides a fair and equitable method for Oregonians to exercise their right to vote.

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