

Submitter: Daniel Sanderman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to eliminate Oregon's vote-by-mail system in favor of in-person voting on Election Day. As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill would undermine the accessibility, security, and efficiency that our current system provides.

Oregon has been a pioneer in vote-by-mail elections leading to consistently high voter participation rates. By allowing citizens to cast their ballots by mail, we have removed barriers that often prevent individuals from voting, such as work commitments, health issues, or lack of transportation. Transitioning to exclusively in-person voting would disenfranchise many voters who rely on the convenience and accessibility of mail-in ballots.

Moreover, our vote-by-mail system has proven to be secure and reliable. Instances of fraud are exceedingly rare, and the system includes robust measures to verify voter identity and ensure the integrity of each ballot. Implementing in-person voting would not necessarily enhance security but could lead to longer lines, increased costs, and greater administrative challenges on Election Day.

Additionally, maintaining vote-by-mail is cost-effective. It reduces the need for numerous polling stations and the associated expenses, such as staffing and equipment. Eliminating this system in favor of in-person voting would likely result in higher costs for the state and taxpayers without delivering commensurate benefits.

In conclusion, SB 210 represents a step backward for Oregon's democratic process. Our vote-by-mail system has enhanced voter participation, ensured election security, and proven to be economically efficient. I urge you to oppose this bill and preserve the integrity and accessibility of Oregon's elections.

Thank you for considering my perspective.