

Submitter:

Ruth Kish

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Dear Legislators:

I am writing you to vote no on SB 210, which would end mail-in voting, requiring voter ID and ensuring in-person voting on Election Day in the state of Oregon. As an Oregon citizen, I am greatly satisfied with our current all mail-in voting situation and am horrified at what the consequences of this bill's passage could mean to me and my fellow citizens.

As it now stands, voting takes nothing more than a ballot, a pen, signature and stamp to participate in my constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. It allows for the retired, busy working folks, those who lack transportation or no longer drive, handicapped, college students, non-ambulatory, those in nursing homes, and harried parents to, at their greatest convenience, cast their ballots for their candidates of choice during every election.

And we have among the highest in the nation voter participation, with very little, if non-existent, incidences of voter fraud since the all mail-in balloting was instituted in 1998.

Current Secretary of State, Tobias Read recently remarked: "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." Why would we want anything less, I ask you?

And SB 210 is certainly less! It is inconvenient, and would prohibit countless Oregonians from being able to exercise their constitutional right to participate in democracy's defining principle: the right to freely vote. Why would we want to make it harder and more prohibitive for many?

Therefore I urge you to put the best interests of the people of the state of Oregon first and vote no on this inconvenient, egregious, and crippling legislation. As my mom used to say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"