

Submitter: Betty Holladay  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210  
Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to express my opposition to SB 210. I'm 75 years old, so I remember the years of the voting booth. There is no question that I loved entering that booth, closing the cloth doors, and voting on Election Day. But that was then. Now, I enjoy the luxury of vote by mail.

As an elder, I love the flexibility of Oregon's election process. I have time to study my Voter's Pamphlet and then vote in the privacy of my own home once my ballot comes in the mail. There is not one day on which I have to make my choices, but at least a couple of weeks in which I can fill out my ballot and get it to the Secretary of State's office quickly and efficiently – particularly because the envelope is postage paid. Many of us use the mail much less than in the past. We would have to hunt for stamps to put on our envelope. Thank you Oregon for making this process easier.

Vote by mail is literally a “no brainer.” There is no hunt to find your polling place. There is no drive to it and looking for a place to park. There are no long lines while waiting to vote. There are no time limitations in which to vote. I can complete my ballot at midnight if I want. Although SB 210 allows for absentee ballots, that process can be cumbersome, with request for a ballot which must be done within a certain time limit prior to election day. Those who are disabled are acutely aware of prohibitive issues with regard to mobility as well as the onset of a sudden illness. These barriers are now compensated for by the current mail-in ballot system. We can't go back to a time in which limiting procedures disenfranchised some citizens.

Oregon's mail-in system has been efficient and accurate. In the not so distant past, we did have some issues crop up with voters who were not eligible to vote. When DMV discovered an error in its registrations, it and the Secretary of State were transparent and acted quickly to correct inaccuracies. In all, there was a total of 9 or 10 votes by noncitizens. The error resulted in no change to election results. Inaccurate registrations and votes are very rare in our State. Oregon has a safe and accurate voting system. I couldn't be prouder to vote here.

There is a saying that I like to quote when change is proposed. “If it ain't broke, don't fix it.” I think that this axiom applies to Oregon's election system. We're good. Move on. We've got actual problems in our State that need addressing.