

Submitter:

Linda Traynor

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As your constituent and registered voter in Salem, Oregon, I am adamantly opposed to SB210. In-person voting on the date of an election should NOT be the standard method for conducting an election. This method turns our elections into a crapshoot. People have busy lives and obligations including but not limited to job responsibilities. People may work graveyard shifts. They may have an accident on their way to the polling place or their vehicle may malfunction. People may suffer an unexpected illness on the day of the election. Or they may have to respond to a family emergency. People may not get permission from their employer to leave work for 1 or 2 or several more hours to go stand in line to vote. People may not have paid leave to go vote. There could be an extreme weather event that could prevent people from getting to the polling place. People may not own a vehicle to drive to the polling place, or have the money to hire a taxi or an Uber or a family member or friend to drive them. There are any number of unexpected events that can occur on election day that could keep someone from being able to cast a vote. It is anachronistic to go back to in-person voting. Life has changed. This is the 21st century. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has worked very well for over 2 decades. Going back to the old way of in-person voting exclusively on election day serves no other purpose than to limit the number of people that will actually cast a ballot. This is wrong. This is undemocratic. This is backwards. We should want to make it easy for all eligible voters to vote. We should NOT be in the business of making it more cumbersome, difficult and inconvenient. Voting by mail is the method that best provides people the flexibility that they need to be thoughtful about their voting decisions within their own busy lives and turning that ballot in within their own schedules. I urge our legislators to vote NO on SB210. In-person voting on the date of an election should never ever again be the law of the land.