

Submitter: Sonya Meadors
On Behalf Of: SB 210
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Oregon Senators,

I am compelled to voice my steadfast opposition to Senate Bill 210, a proposal that threatens to dismantle Oregon's exemplary vote-by-mail system, which has served as a cornerstone of democratic participation in our state for decades.

This bill outlines a series of drastic changes that would erect unnecessary barriers to voting, disproportionately impacting our most vulnerable citizens. By designating in-person voting as the primary method and imposing government-issued photo identification requirements, this legislation would gravely hinder access for elderly voters, individuals with disabilities, rural residents, working families, and those without reliable transportation. It would also cause people to lose income from their jobs to take time off from work, and there are those who could be reprimanded or, worse, fired for taking time off from work to vote in person during the designated voting hours.

Since the inception of our vote-by-mail system in 1998, Oregon has stood as a national exemplar of election accessibility and security. Our proven system has demonstrated its effectiveness in ensuring high voter turnout while maintaining robust security. Voter fraud in Oregon is virtually nonexistent, and when isolated incidents arise, our existing safeguards are more than capable of addressing them.

The proposed ID requirements tackle a fabricated issue, imposing undue hardships on legitimate voters. Countless Oregonians, especially older people, those with disabilities, and low-income residents, may lack access to government-issued photo identification or face significant hurdles in acquiring it. Furthermore, the removal of the state's obligation to cover ballot return postage unfairly burdens voters financially. Even modest costs can act as a deterrent to participation, particularly for those already facing economic challenges. The financial barriers alone for those who may have to acquire the proper identification it is between \$60 & \$94 for an upgraded Real ID not to mention the cost of obtaining birth and marriage certificates.

Additionally, this bill severely restricts ballot return options by mandating that all ballots be returned by election day, erasing the current postmark rule that guarantees ballots mailed on election day are counted. This change undermines the flexibility and accessibility that voters have come to expect and rely upon.

I strongly urge you to reject Senate Bill 210. Let us safeguard Oregon's well-

established voting system, which has achieved remarkable success in fostering high turnout, exceptional security, and inclusive participation. We must not reverse the hard-won progress that has made our democracy more accessible and equitable.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Sonya Meadors