

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I urge our lawmakers to recognize this proposed change for what it is - an act of voter suppression and an attack on our democracy

I've lived in Oregon for 25 years voting by mail and before that I voted in person. To say that voting by mail has been superior is an understatement. There is no question that it allows for a better reflection of voters' positions on issues and enables more voters to vote. It removes barriers to voting that were unfair and unnecessary.

In person voting disadvantages anyone who has difficulty standing in long lines, working class people, the elderly and families. It doesn't support discourse on topics that are complex and deserve discussion before making choices. There is absolutely a difference between preparing in advance to vote before standing in line vs having a vote by mail ballot in front of you and being able to research and discuss individual decisions in a methodical way and in whatever environment feels most safe and conducive to making your personal choices.

Further voting in person provides opportunities to discourage people from voting who might feel unwelcome or intimidated by others with opposing beliefs or who feel targeted in a particular political climate for any number of reasons, including race, identity, or immigration status.

Changing our current system flies in the face of Democratic ideals. The burden of proof should be on proving that our current system is less democratic than the alternative. Extreme caution and scrutiny should be made around a change like this that could fundamentally change access to voting our beliefs.

I vehemently oppose making in person voting the standard.