

Submitter: Michaela Hammerson
On Behalf Of: EndVBM.com
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 210 during this legislative session. As a representative of EndVBM.com, where we have filed Initiative Petition 2026-037 to eliminate vote-by-mail in Oregon, I write to express support for SB 210 as a meaningful step toward enhancing election security, integrity, and public confidence. This bill shares significant common ground with our petition, and with modest adjustments, it could further align with these goals.

SB 210's core provisions resonate with Initiative Petition 2026-037's vision. The mandate that "County clerks shall conduct all elections in this state in person, on the date of the election and at a voting booth maintained under ORS 254.474" (Section 1, ORS 254.465(1)) parallels our call for one-day, in-person voting, reducing the vulnerabilities of mailed ballots. The requirement that electors "must present valid government-issued identification that contains a photographic image" (Section 1, ORS 254.465(3)(a)) mirrors 2026-037's emphasis on voter verification, ensuring only eligible citizens vote. Additionally, the deadline—"The ballot must be received at the office of the county clerk... not later than 8 p.m. on the date of the election" (Section 5, ORS 254.470(2)(e))—reinforces a single-day process, a cornerstone of both efforts.

However, SB 210's absentee ballot allowance—"Any elector may request... a ballot that may be returned by mail if... unable to vote in person... no later than 21 days before the date of the election" (Section 1, ORS 254.465(2))—is broader than Initiative Petition 2026-037's stricter approach. Senator David Brock Smith's inclusion of this option reflects a reasonable attempt to balance accessibility, but Oregon's recent DMV automatic registration errors, which resulted in ballots mailed to ineligible individuals, highlight the risks of lax absentee rules. Other states provide proven safeguards: North Carolina requires two witness signatures or notarization on absentee envelopes, Ohio mandates ID numbers or photocopies with applications, and Florida restricts mail ballots to voter-initiated requests with rigorous signature verification.

To strengthen SB 210, we respectfully recommend limiting absentee ballots to truly essential cases—such as active military personnel or voters with severe disabilities—and incorporating security measures like mandatory ID photocopies or witness signatures with returned ballots. These enhancements would prevent fraud, curb errors, and align SB 210 more closely with Initiative Petition 2026-037's mission to end vote-by-mail entirely.

SB 210 is a commendable effort that complements our work at EndVBM.com. With these refinements, it can become a robust tool to restore trust in Oregon's elections. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Michaela Hammerson
Chief Petitioner, EndVBM.com