

Submitter: Kurt Llebezeit  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Up until 2020 I would have said that a bill like this was unnecessary, but that election opened my eyes to how corruptible mail-in elections are: register a lot of people through motor-voting or get out the vote drives among non-eligible (illegal alien) or traditionally non-participatory (institutional elderly) populations, then ballot harvest or simply steal unmarked ballots, mark 'em the way you want, and drop them off by the carload at ballot drop sites (see the film "3000 Mules"). It also requires a mindset of "It's all for the greater good, so what's the problem?" All those elements are present here in Oregon, so you would have to be willfully ignorant to think that it isn't happening here. It is likely that both major parties have some activity in this area, although with the Democratic lockhold on this state I would put the odds higher that it favors Democrats.

Two other experiences inform my views on this:

- I had a chance conversation with a poll worker after the 2020 election, and she told me how lax the standards were for checking signatures on ballots were: basically, if there was any attempt at a signature they were told that to approve the ballot.

- I had a homeless friend use my address for his mail, and after he died I continued to receive fresh ballots for every election for two years, even though I dutifully marked them "Return to sender, deceased" every time. I finally had to go down to the county election office, and demand in person that they mark him as deceased. They did finally remove him from the voting rolls, but they said they never act on returned mail. I'm thinking that there are a lot of dead grandmothers voting in Oregon, despite the felony risk.

Finally, I read through a lot of these statements opposing this bill, and many oppose it because mail-in voting is so easy that there is greater participation. Participation is exactly the wrong metric to promote. Simply promoting participation means that you get the most people, with only the most superficial understanding of the issues and candidates, swayed by the most effective propaganda, to spend five minutes to fill out a ballot (actually, I can see why both parties want mail-in voting when put like that). Actual voting, where you take time off from work, or where you volunteer in the process (as the church ladies used to do prior to mail-in voting) is an investment of one's time, and when you make an investment of your time like that you're much more likely to get informed and think about your choices.

So, yes, end mail-in voting.