

Submitter:

Joseph Nicastro

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

There is no valid reason to change the system of voting. If the proposition is that it somehow encourages fraud, then that proposition must be shown with concrete evidence, and it must rise to the level of the preponderance of evidence. It should not and cannot be in the nature of mere allegation, hearsay, anecdotal evidence or is likely the case in this particular instance, dissatisfaction with the end result. None of these are a valid basis for introducing this legislation. Unless and until specific, reliable, measurable information can be produced which demonstrates that the current system results in an anomalous result, this proposal should be withdrawn.

Oregon is not just Portland and a few smaller municipalities. It has large rural areas. Our current system ensures that all areas have equal access to voting. This bill will undercut participation in the democratic process. Moreover, how much more is this going to cost? In person voting means voting stations, personnel at the polls, equipment, transportation, and collateral expense. If the legislators are actually concerned about fiscal responsibility, why would we take a system that is currently working and replace it with a more cumbersome, costly system that relies on 19th century technology?

I'd like to think this proposal is a misguided attempt to fix something not broken; based on unsupported allegations and unfounded assertions rather than some cynical attempt to suppress voter participation to the benefit of the party proposing it. In any event, it would be more useful if the legislature spend our tax money on moving the state into the 21st century rather than the 19th.