

Submitter: Meagan Griffin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 210, which seeks to alter our state's established vote-by-mail system. Since its implementation in 2000, Oregon's vote-by-mail process has been a model of secure, accessible, and efficient elections, earning the trust of voters across the state.

**Security of Mail-In Voting:**

Oregon's vote-by-mail system incorporates rigorous security measures to ensure the integrity of each ballot. Voters are required to sign an affidavit on the ballot envelope, and these signatures are meticulously verified against voter registration records. This process effectively prevents fraudulent activities such as voter impersonation and ballot falsification, which remain exceedingly rare. According to the League of Women Voters, numerous studies have confirmed the minuscule incidence rates of such fraud in mail-in voting.

**Accessibility Benefits:**

The convenience of voting by mail has significantly enhanced voter participation in Oregon. By eliminating barriers associated with in-person voting, such as long lines and limited polling hours, mail-in voting ensures that all citizens, including those with disabilities, the elderly, and individuals with demanding schedules, have equitable access to the electoral process. This inclusivity has led to increased voter turnout, particularly in primary elections. For instance, after adopting universal mail-in voting, Oregon's primary election turnout rose from 37.8% in 1996 to 51.3% in 2000.

**Cost-Effectiveness and Administrative Efficiency:**

Beyond security and accessibility, Oregon's vote-by-mail system has proven to be cost-effective and administratively efficient. Conducting elections by mail reduces expenses related to staffing polling stations and maintaining voting equipment. Moreover, it simplifies the voting process for election officials and voters alike, contributing to a more streamlined and effective electoral system.

In conclusion, Oregon's vote-by-mail system stands as a testament to the state's commitment to secure, accessible, and efficient elections. The proposed changes in SB 210 threaten to undermine a system that has served our state well for over two decades. I urge you to consider the substantial evidence supporting the benefits of mail-in voting and to oppose any measures that would compromise the integrity and inclusivity of Oregon's electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Meagan Griffin