

Submitter:

Susan Steffen

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Before I moved to Oregon, I voted at polling places. When the ballot measures or elections were complicated, I made sure to have as much information with me as possible while voting, but it sure could be a challenge. I was pleasantly surprised by how much more time I had to look into issues, read the voters' pamphlet on the subjects, read or hear various news articles, hear from interest groups (sometimes nonstop, true!), and make extremely thought-through and careful choices once I moved to Oregon. I know my ballot is specific to me and extremely trackable (and I do track my ballots), and I do not worry in the slightest about election integrity in my county.

On the other hand, I do worry about integrity of elections in states that voter-suppress their population by making it as difficult as possible to vote, and I don't want to live in any state that supports harming democracy in that way. This bill, make no mistake about it, is an attempt to suppress the votes of working voters, of disabled voters, and of voters who want more information in order to consider their votes. If a party is frustrated by more people voting, perhaps it needs to consider that its policies don't have statewide appeal and change commensurately. This blatant attempt to snatch away a proud Oregonian tradition of free and fair voting is shameful to its sponsors and should be turned away with utmost clarity and vigor.