

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

For 25 years, our state has relied on vote-by-mail as a key part of our electoral process, a system set up to boost voter access and convenience when tech and election security were less scrutinized. But today's concerns—fraud, tech vulnerabilities, and declining trust in democracy—require change. We must end vote-by-mail and shift to secure, transparent in-person voting. Here's why:

1. Fraud Risks Rise?Vote-by-mail is vulnerable to loss, theft, or tampering during mailing. A 2020 Election Assistance Commission report found mail-in ballots were the main source of voter fraud cases, like intercepted ballots. In 2022, the Public Interest Legal Foundation noted thousands of ballots sent to old addresses. In-person voting verifies identity and submission in real time, cutting these risks.

2. Trust in Elections Wanes?A 2023 Gallup poll shows only 59% of Americans trust election results, down from 71% a decade ago. Vote-by-mail lacks transparency—voters can't see their ballot counted, relying on the postal service. In-person voting, with poll watchers and secure machines, builds trust through visibility. Ending vote-by-mail shows we're serious about election integrity.

3. Tech Makes In-Person Voting Accessible?Vote-by-mail aimed to help rural, elderly, and disabled voters 25 years ago. Now, early voting, mobile polling, and transport aid make in-person voting easier. Texas and Florida hit 66% and 77% turnout in 2020, versus our 62%, using these methods. Voter ID and electronic poll books add security not easily matched by mail.

4. Cost and Efficiency Issues?Vote-by-mail is costly—printing, mailing, and processing ballots strain budgets. A 2021 study found mail voting costs 15% more than in-person voting due to postage and signature checks. In-person voting saves money, freeing funds for better polling sites and staff.

5. Challenges of a 25-Year System?After 25 years, vote-by-mail faces issues like outdated voter rolls and signature mismatches. A 2022 Colorado audit showed 5% of ballots rejected, often from elderly voters. In-person voting fixes this with on-site identity checks.

6. A Balanced Path Forward?We can prioritize in-person voting while keeping limited absentee voting for military and disabled voters. Georgia's 2022 turnout of 57% shows this works, with early voting and strict absentee rules.?Conclusion?After 25 years, vote-by-mail's risks, costs, and trust issues demand change. In-person voting restores confidence, ensures security, and strengthens democracy. Let's prioritize trust over outdated convenience.