

Submitter: Andrea Matteson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Testimony Opposing the Elimination of Mail-In Voting in Oregon:

As a mother of two daughters, a mental health coach, a community volunteer, and someone who has spent the past 30 years living in both Portland and Ashland, I'm writing to express my strong opposition to any effort to eliminate mail-in voting in Oregon.

One of the reasons I love this state is its deep and longstanding commitment to accessibility and civic engagement. Oregon has been a national leader in voting access, and our vote-by-mail system is a model of efficiency, equity, and participation.

Mail-in voting makes it possible for people who are homebound, disabled, working multiple jobs, or caring for children to have a voice in our democracy. It empowers working parents like me—and it's one of the ways I teach my children about the values of inclusion, access, and civic responsibility.

My spouse has been a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service for the past 20+ years. Due to the remote location of his work, he works 10-hour days and commutes an hour each way. That means he's gone from home at least 12 hours a day. Mail-in voting is often the only way he's been able to participate in the civic process and have his voice heard. Without it, people like him, working hard to serve our country and local communities would be effectively silenced.

To take this away would be a direct blow to the ideals of representative democracy. Accessible voting isn't just convenient—it's essential.

Please do not take Oregon backwards. Protect mail-in voting. Our democracy depends on it.

Sincerely,
A.M.
Ashland, Oregon