

Submitter:

Jacqueline Hayes

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I do not support the changes proposed by this bill. There are many reasons that this is not only the wrong choice for Oregon, it's an unrealistic and performative one. In order for every Oregonian to vote in an election, as is their right, voting day for every cycle would need to be changed to a government holiday. Even then, people who work in healthcare, for example, would simply not be allowed to vote due to their working hours. Group homes, hospitals, even in-home caregivers wouldn't be able to exercise their legal right to vote. This isn't a "they can figure it out" situation like other industries, this is life and death, or at least the difference between whether or not your mother or father sits in their own waste for hours because there is no caregiver to help them. Mail in voting allows us all to vote while not losing crucial time at work in the process. And that's just financial status. On top of that, is childcare going to be provided for parents who need to vote but don't have anyone to watch their kids while they take the time to do it? There are too many people that will be negatively impacted by this proposal. It's a bill that seems to be based on emotions rather than facts. The fact is we, as a State and as people, don't have the money to be making this change. Even if I supported it fully, it's simply not the time until we can financially afford a way to make it so EVERY Oregonian has an equal voice in elections, regardless of what job they have or what their poverty status is.