

Submitter: Coleman Jennewein
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am a current legal resident who moved here from Indiana where we had an in-person voting system and I am opposed to this bill. After registering in Oregon I found that our current voting system is much more secure than Indiana's because while both provide the option to register via online form, due to our automatic voter registration when you get a government I.D a much higher percentage of voters register at the DMV where they show their face and present proof of legal residence in person, in a way that is much more scrutinizing than we could achieve with temporary poll workers on the day of the election.

Additionally, the State of Oregon's Legislative Financial Office released a report on our mail-in voter system in 2020 that found 38 cases of voter fraud for the 19 years vote-by-mail had been in place at the time of the writing of the report, which corresponds to a rate of 0.00006%. This can be compared with the rate of 0.00007% from when we had in-person voting to show that not only did mail-in-voting not increase voter fraud, if anything it decreased it. Furthermore, with mail-in-voting there are individually marked ballots and a paper trail which allows for a much greater ability to audit votes, beyond what is possible with in-person voting.

Beyond the increased election security, the report shows that voter turnout increased by 2-5%, this number equates to over 60,000 voters every single election, a number which vastly and dramatically outweighs the 38 cases of voter fraud we had over 19 years, at a rate that was already lower than when we had in-person voting. Beyond a shadow of a doubt our elections are a more accurate depiction of the will of the people of Oregon with vote-by-mail in place. Vote-by-mail also removes the issue of voter intimidation at the polling sites and as an added bonus the report showed that once mail-in-voting was in place the cost of holding elections decreased by 17% due to the reduced numbers of poll workers required.

In conclusion, an effort to remove vote-by-mail would make our elections less secure, cost more, and ensure less Oregonian's voices are heard, in a time when voters already feel their interests are not being represented by their representatives. I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you.