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

### Argument Against Oregon SB210 (2025)

Oregon has been a pioneer in mail-in voting since 1998, creating a system that has worked efficiently for decades. SB210 would dramatically upend this established and successful voting infrastructure, requiring significant resources to build an entirely new in-person voting system including polling locations, equipment, and trained staff throughout the state.

#### Reduced Voter Participation

By making in-person voting the standard method and limiting mail-in voting to those who can prove they are "unable" to vote in person, SB210 would likely decrease voter participation across several demographics:

- Rural voters who would need to travel long distances to polling places
- Working parents who would struggle to find time on a workday to vote
- Elderly and disabled individuals who may have mobility challenges
- Voters without reliable transportation
- Shift workers and those with inflexible employment schedules

#### Unnecessary Financial Burden

This bill would create substantial new costs for the state and counties in several ways:

- Establishing and staffing polling locations across Oregon's diverse geography
- Purchasing voting equipment and technology for in-person voting
- Training poll workers and election officials on new procedures
- Creating systems to verify voter ID requirements

Meanwhile, it removes the state's responsibility to pay return postage, shifting that financial burden to voters.

#### ID Requirements as a Barrier to Voting

The requirement for government-issued ID creates an additional barrier to voting that disproportionately affects:

- Lower-income Oregonians who may lack the resources to obtain ID
- Elderly residents who may not have current photo identification
- College students and young voters who are less likely to have driver's licenses

-People who have recently moved or changed their name

### Election Day Congestion and Challenges

By requiring all ballots to be returned by Election Day and shifting to primarily in-person voting, SB210 would create logistical challenges:

- Long lines at polling places, especially in densely populated areas
- Increased pressure on election workers to handle a surge of in-person voters
- Potential for technical glitches and delays with a new voting system
- Weather-related complications that could affect turnout (Oregon's November weather can be unpredictable)

### Solution in Search of a Problem

Oregon's mail-in voting system has been repeatedly shown to be secure, with negligible fraud. The state's current system provides ample time for signature verification and ballot curing processes. SB210 would replace this proven system with more restrictive measures that address problems that evidence shows don't exist in Oregon.

This bill represents a significant step backward for voting accessibility in Oregon and would likely result in fewer citizens exercising their fundamental right to vote. Do not pass this bill!