

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

I am writing in strong opposition to SB210.

This goes beyond convenience, but that alone disenfranchises many voters. When I was a single parent of two toddlers, living in a rural area, working and attending a community college - I did not have the time or the knowledge of how to go about the process. I was overwhelmed already. If I had the ability to receive the materials at my home and to be able to vote from home - I would have been an active participant. There are other vulnerable populations who cannot or have difficulty going to polls, people who are called out of state for work reasons at the last minute, family emergencies....life just happens.

\*\*A voting holiday would not work - if school were out, parents would have to arrange for a sitter for their children or take them to the polls, forcing many to take time off of work.

Also, many of our hard working service workers do not have the luxury of days off on federal holidays, nor is going to a polling site always feasible for them. I have read comments about it being a show of patriotism and community celebration....yes, if you are privileged enough!

\*\*Despite an comment about the cost of postage for mailing ballots; vote-by-mail actually saves money! "The Federal Election Commission book "Innovations in Election Administration 11: All-Mail-Ballot Elections" discusses the advantages of mail balloting for election administrators well: No pollworkers includes: no recruitment; no notices to be sent; no classes to conduct; no distribution and retrieval of election day supplies; no last-minute cancellations from workers who had agreed to serve; no paychecks to cut and mail; no W-2's to send; no pre-dawn election-day hours to line up replacement workers. No polling places includes no polling place leases, tele-phones, utilities; no searching for or preparation of accessible locations; no frantic phone calls about locked doors; no preparation, set-up, tear-down, or emergency repairs of voting machines or devices; no confusion about where people must go to vote."

Costs vary depending on the research used, but since even a \$1-\$2 savings per voter could add up to millions per year saved. (Earlier testimony submitted showed savings with not using VBM, however they neglected to figure the cost of the polling sites, equipment and the entire infrastructure needed, storage for this rarely used equipment, etc.)

**\*\*Polls were generally set up in schools. With school security as it is, setting up poll stations in individual schools would not work, unless you add to the cost of poll style elections by having police at each poll station. From what I hear, most police departments are already short staffed, this won't work.**

**\*\*Vote-by-mail is safe: According to this Brookings Institute article, it establishes that VBM is safe and is popular among voters. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-does-vote-by-mail-work-and-does-it-increase-election-fraud/>**

**I also trust that our Secretary of State can institute an audit or investigation against any claims of fraud, which they have. The dust up over the DMV mistake found only 9 non-citizens had voted out of over 3 million eligible voters. NOT widespread fraud!**

**Let's stop the lies! Vote-by-mail is safe, cheaper, and makes voting accessible to all Oregonians able to vote.**