

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

I respectfully submit my strong opposition to the bill that proposes to eliminate mail-in voting. The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and removing mail-in voting would create unnecessary barriers to voter participation, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Mail-in voting has been a critical tool for many individuals, including the elderly, disabled, and those living in rural or underserved areas. For these citizens, traveling to polling places can be difficult or impossible. Additionally, people with demanding jobs, childcare responsibilities, or health concerns should not have to choose between casting their vote and fulfilling other obligations. Removing the option of mail-in voting would disproportionately affect these groups, effectively disenfranchising them.

Studies show that mail-in voting increases overall voter turnout, contributing to a more inclusive democratic process. During the 2020 election, for example, record numbers of Americans voted by mail, ensuring that everyone had a safe and convenient way to participate despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The claims of widespread voter fraud related to mail-in voting have been extensively investigated and debunked. There is no credible evidence to suggest that mail-in voting undermines election integrity. In fact, election officials across the country have repeatedly stated that mail-in voting is secure and well-monitored.

Eliminating mail-in voting would only serve to suppress voter participation. Every eligible voter, regardless of their circumstances, deserves to have their voice heard. This bill would remove a key option for millions of voters, making it harder for many to participate in the democratic process.

Rather than eliminating mail-in voting, we should focus on improving access to all forms of voting. We should enhance security, promote voter education, and ensure that every voter—whether they vote by mail, early, or in person—has the opportunity to cast their ballot easily and securely. We should be working to expand, not restrict, access to voting.

For all these reasons, I urge you to oppose this bill and protect the rights of all citizens to participate in our elections. Removing mail-in voting would only serve to limit access to democracy, which benefits no one.