

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” What would in-person voting accomplish? What imagined problem is this supposed to fix? Mail-in ballots are the cornerstone of Oregon democracy, an essential component of ensuring every citizen can exercise their right to vote. Mail-in voting is more accessible to groups like the elderly, the disabled and chronically ill, the car-less, rural residents, and workers who have no time between shifts to wait in line for hours on end. It’s a system that works, it’s secure, and there is no benefit to changing it.

Furthermore, if we changed the standard method of voting to in-person, what would the economic cost be? Where will the money come from to maintain polling facilities that can accommodate enough people during the hours of operation to ensure every citizen has access to their most basic constitutional right? Even manned by volunteers, the buildings themselves cost money to operate, to build if necessary — and there’s the cost of ensuring these facilities are secure and safe. At a time when government spending is under such high scrutiny, the last thing we need is to invest in pointless projects, especially ones that may do more harm than good.