

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

I strongly oppose SB 210, which would dismantle Oregon's proven vote-by-mail system and impose unnecessary barriers to voting. This bill threatens to disenfranchise thousands of Oregonians, particularly seniors, rural residents, low-income voters, and people with disabilities, while offering no evidence of improving election security.

1. Vote-by-Mail Works

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been a national model for 30 years, ensuring high turnout, accessibility, and efficiency. In 2022, Oregon had the 2nd-highest turnout in the U.S. SB 210 would replace this system with in-person voting as the default, forcing voters to:

- Request a mail ballot if they cannot vote in person (a new hurdle).
- Show photo ID (which many eligible voters lack).
- Return ballots by Election Day, eliminating the current 7-day grace period for postmarked ballots.

This creates unnecessary burdens without addressing any real problem.

2. Photo ID Requirements Disenfranchise Voters

SB 210 mandates government-issued photo ID for both in-person voting and mail ballot requests. Studies show 11% of eligible voters lack such ID, disproportionately impacting:

- Seniors (who may no longer drive).
- Low-income voters (who face cost and documentation barriers).
- Rural communities (with limited DMV access).

Oregon already verifies signatures securely. Adding ID laws solves nothing but suppresses turnout.

3. Unfunded Mandates and Logistical Chaos

Switching to in-person voting would:

- Cost millions to establish polling places, train staff, and secure equipment.
- Strain county clerks, who would need to process individual ballot requests.
- Reduce flexibility for voters who rely on mail ballots for work, childcare, or health reasons.

Oregon's elections are secure. The Secretary of State's office has confirmed no widespread fraud under vote-by-mail. This bill fixes a problem that doesn't exist while

creating new ones.

SB 210 is a solution in search of a problem. It undermines Oregon's accessible, high-turnout elections and risks silencing marginalized voices. I urge you to reject SB 210 and protect our democracy.