

Submitter:

Emily Barnes

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Members of the committee, I stand in opposition to Senate Bill 210.

This bill, which mandates in-person voting as the standard, would create significant barriers to voter participation. Oregon's current vote-by-mail system has proven to be highly successful, resulting in consistently high voter turnout. Eliminating or significantly curtailing this system would disproportionately impact:

- * Seniors and those with disabilities: In-person voting can be physically challenging for these populations.

- * Rural residents: Travel distances to polling places can be substantial.

- * Working families: Taking time off work to vote can be difficult.

- * Those without reliable transportation: Accessing polling places can be a major hurdle.

Furthermore, vote-by-mail has proven to be secure and efficient. Claims of widespread voter fraud are unfounded. SB 210 would create unnecessary costs and logistical challenges for election administrators, while simultaneously suppressing voter turnout.

Oregon has been a leader in election accessibility. This bill represents a step backward, disenfranchising voters and undermining our democratic process. I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 210.