

Submitter: Megan Baim

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing today as a proud Oregonian and a deeply engaged voter to express my unequivocal opposition to SB 210, which seeks to eliminate our vote-by-mail system and impose in-person voting on Election Day as the standard. This bill is not only unnecessary, but it actively undermines the accessibility, security, and integrity of elections in our state.

Oregon has been a national leader in vote-by-mail since 1998, when our citizens overwhelmingly approved its adoption with 69% of the vote (Oregon Secretary of State, 1998). For more than two decades, vote-by-mail has proven to be secure, efficient, and beneficial to voter turnout. According to a study conducted by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, universal vote-by-mail increases participation by 2 to 4 percentage points, with particularly significant benefits for rural voters and historically disenfranchised communities (Stanford, 2020).

The security of vote-by-mail is well-documented. Oregon's system includes multiple safeguards to prevent fraud, including signature verification by trained election officials, unique barcodes for tracking ballots, and ballot drop boxes placed in secure locations (Oregon Secretary of State, 2022). In fact, multiple studies have shown that voter fraud rates in Oregon are statistically negligible—out of over 100 million ballots cast since the program's inception, only a handful of cases of fraud have been documented (provided by the Heritage Foundation Election Fraud Database, whose partisan interests are very well known).

Beyond security, vote-by-mail makes democracy more accessible to all Oregonians. Whether it's seniors, working parents, voters with disabilities, or those living in remote areas, vote-by-mail ensures that every eligible voter has the time and opportunity to make their voice heard. Eliminating this system in favor of a single Election Day requirement would place undue burdens on those who cannot take time off work, do not have reliable transportation, or face other barriers to in-person voting.

The attempt to dismantle vote-by-mail is not based on facts or public demand. Instead, it appears to be driven by partisan interests that seek to limit access to the ballot. I strongly urge you to reject this attack on one of the most effective, secure, and voter-friendly election systems in the country.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a point of pride for me and many others. It ensures high participation, security, and accessibility—principles that should be upheld rather than dismantled. Please stand with the voters of Oregon and oppose SB 210.