



Sara Rich, LCSW

To the Esteemed Members of the Senate
Committee On Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any initiative aimed at repealing Oregon's vote-by-mail system. As a concerned citizen, I believe that dismantling this system would undermine the accessibility, security, and integrity of our state's electoral process.

Historical Success and Increased Voter
Participation

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing vote-by-mail, conducting all elections exclusively by mail since 2000. This system has significantly enhanced voter participation by making the voting process more convenient and accessible to

all eligible citizens. Studies have shown that states with universal vote-by-mail systems experience higher voter turnout, reflecting a more engaged and representative electorate.

Cost-Effectiveness and Efficiency

Transitioning to an all-mail voting system has proven to be cost-effective for Oregon. By eliminating the need for numerous physical polling places and the associated staffing and equipment costs, the state has streamlined election operations while ensuring that every registered voter receives a ballot. This efficiency benefits both taxpayers and election administrators.

Enhanced Security Measures

Contrary to concerns about election security, Oregon's vote-by-mail system incorporates robust safeguards to protect against fraud and ensure the integrity of each ballot. Every signature on a returned ballot is meticulously verified against voter registration records,

providing a reliable method of authentication. Additionally, the use of paper ballots creates a verifiable paper trail, which is essential for auditing and maintaining public confidence in election outcomes.

Minimal Incidence of Voter Fraud

Empirical evidence demonstrates that voter fraud within Oregon's vote-by-mail system is exceedingly rare. For instance, in the 2020 election, out of millions of ballots cast, only 140 instances of potential voter fraud were identified, with just four cases referred for further investigation. This low incidence rate underscores the system's reliability and the effectiveness of its security measures.

Conclusion

Repealing Oregon's vote-by-mail system would represent a significant step backward for our state's democracy. It would disenfranchise voters who rely on the convenience and accessibility of mail-in voting, increase election costs, and

dismantle a system that has demonstrated both security and efficacy over decades. I urge you to consider the substantial benefits that vote-by-mail has provided to Oregonians and to oppose any efforts to repeal this vital component of our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to upholding the democratic principles that define our state.

Sincerely,

Sara Rich

Eugene, Oregon 97405

541-953-4071