

Submitter: Matthew Gottula  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Senate on Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal under consideration to eliminate Oregon's universal mail-in voting system. As a concerned citizen, I believe that dismantling this system would undermine the accessibility, security, and integrity of our electoral process.

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing universal mail-in voting, conducting elections exclusively by mail since 2000. This system has significantly enhanced civic participation, as evidenced by a substantial increase in voter turnout. For instance, primary election turnout rose from 37.8% in 1996 to 51.3% in 2000 following the adoption of mail-in voting. Such improvements highlight the system's effectiveness in engaging more citizens in the democratic process.

Moreover, extensive research indicates that universal mail-in voting does not favor any political party but serves to lower barriers to voting for all individuals. A 2020 study by Stanford University political scientists concluded that universal vote-by-mail does not appear to tilt turnout toward any particular party, nor does it significantly affect election outcomes. This underscores the nonpartisan nature of mail-in voting and its role in promoting broad electoral participation. ?

Concerns regarding the security of mail-in voting have been thoroughly examined and addressed. Oregon's system has been recognized as the "gold standard," with no evidence of widespread voter fraud. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to decline hearing a case challenging Oregon's mail-in voting further affirms the system's integrity and reliability. ?

Eliminating universal mail-in voting would not only disenfranchise many voters who rely on this convenient and secure method but also risk decreasing voter turnout and undermining public confidence in our elections. I urge you to consider the substantial benefits that mail-in voting has provided to our state and to reject any measures that would dismantle this proven system.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gottula