

Submitter: Elizabeth Kozup
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

My name is Elizabeth Kozup. I'm a resident and small business owner living and working in Portland for over 12 years now. I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 210 and preserve Oregon's vote-by-mail system. Rather than dismantling our successful model, the rest of the United States should be adopting Oregon's mail-in voting system as the standard for democratic participation and accessibility.

Oregon has been a national leader in election access and participation through our vote-by-mail system since 1998. This system has increased voter participation, enhanced election security, and made voting more accessible to all Oregonians regardless of geographic location, physical ability, or socioeconomic status.

Oregon consistently ranks among the states with the highest voter turnout in the nation. In the 2020 general election, Oregon achieved a remarkable 78.5% voter turnout. This level of civic engagement is directly attributable to the convenience and accessibility of our mail-in voting system.

Implementing SB 210 would incur substantial costs:

- Establishing and staffing hundreds of polling locations across 36 counties
- Training thousands of poll workers.
- Purchasing and maintaining voting machines and other equipment.
- Security measures at polling locations.
- Lost productivity from voters taking time off work to vote.

At a time when many Oregon counties are already facing budget constraints, these additional expenses are neither justified nor sustainable.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has a proven track record of security and integrity:

- Ballot tracking systems allow voters to verify their ballot was received and counted.
- Signature verification provides a reliable means of voter identification.
- Oregon has experienced virtually no documented cases of widespread voter fraud.
- The paper trail created by mail-in ballots provides a verifiable record of votes cast.

Contrary to what many people advocating for this change profess, reverting to primarily in-person voting would make our election less secure.

Let's be clear about what's happening here: those supporting this bill are not seeking to improve our elections—they are actively working to create barriers that prevent Americans from fulfilling their civic duty to vote. This is a transparent attempt to

suppress voter turnout and undermine our democratic process.