



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 31, 2025

To: Chair [Senator Jama Kayse](#) and Vice-Chair [Senator Daniel Bonham](#)
and members of the [Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [SB 210](#) – Make in-person voting the standard method for conducting an election – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) opposes SB 210, to eliminate vote-by-mail (VBM). Today our VBM system is fully operational with transparent [Best Practices](#). Visit [county elections offices](#). We have worked to improve VBM since the early 1980s, opposing until ballot uniformity and secrecy questions were entirely addressed. Our 1997 voting process advocacy position states, in part:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes citizens are entitled to voting procedures that provide ease of ballot access and use and support. Use of vote-by-mail in all elections. Every effort should be made to preserve ballot secrecy to prevent fraud.

Our continued support for Oregon’s ground-breaking VBM system is based on **transparency** at all steps, including counting. Also, ease for voters, safe-guarding with a **paper trail** of each ballot, lower **cost** compared to in-person systems, and the entire **security system** in place in Oregon. See the [Vote by Mail Procedures Manual](#).

Oregon’s 75.2% voter turnout was the sixth highest nationally ([World Population Review](#), 2025). In 2023 Oregon voter turnout led the nation ([OPB](#)), strongly reflecting rural populations. Political scientists cite two major factors: Oregon’s VMB system and “motor voter” law, linking voter registration to getting driver’s licenses.

Oregon elections were already prepared for **emergencies** when COVID-19 hit. Many voters were disenfranchised in states without easy VBM processes as the pandemic, disastrous hurricanes and fires disrupted elections. These cost Oregon little more than usual, as we could more easily maintain our VBM system. Since the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of [2022](#) failed, many voters without VBM are still at the mercy of natural emergencies.

Oregonians *can* currently vote in person at county elections offices. To go backward to (solely) election day voting booths, we would bear full costs, now lacking the \$33.9 million Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Oregon got to implement and upgrade to our VBM system used today. SB 210 means adding training and staffing for added poll locations and ballot counting centers and machines in each county, also implementing separate absentee ballot systems where necessary. During the pandemic, veteran poll-workers, many older or more vulnerable, were not available; the situation worsened by short county stand-by worker lists. Excessive in-person registration ID steps are likely to cause long lines, delays and most likely less security than our current VBM system.

The LWVOR believes that going backward and abandoning VMB would itself be a disaster, stepping away from encouraging all eligible voters to take part in our democracy.

We urge you to vote NO on SB 210. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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