

Submitter: Jeffrey Tan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
?Chairperson and Members of the Committee,?

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which proposes to repeal Oregon's successful mail-in voting system and replace it with mandatory in-person voting requiring the presentation of identification.?

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing a universal vote-by-mail system, a practice that has significantly increased voter participation and streamlined the electoral process. Since 2000, Oregon has conducted all elections by mail, mailing registered voters a ballot for every election. ?

The security and integrity of Oregon's vote-by-mail system are well-established. According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Elections Division, the state takes numerous steps to protect the integrity of election results, including cross-checking for voters who have moved, duplicate records, and voters who have passed away each month. ?

Multnomah County

Concerns about voter fraud in Oregon's mail-in voting system are unfounded. A review by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office found that from 2000 to 2019, approximately 61 million ballots were cast in Oregon elections, resulting in only 38 criminal convictions for voter fraud. This equates to a rate of 0.0000006%, demonstrating that voter fraud is exceedingly rare in Oregon. ?

Implementing mandatory in-person voting with ID requirements could disenfranchise many voters, particularly those in rural areas, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited access to transportation. Such measures have been shown to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, leading to decreased voter turnout. For example, Native Americans in Arizona faced significant barriers at the ballot box due to polling locations not opening on time, ballot printing problems, and long wait times, which led to many voters leaving without voting. ?

Furthermore, studies have shown that universal vote-by-mail systems increase voter turnout. When every registered voter receives a ballot by mail, voting rates tend to rise.

Senate Bill 210 proposes a solution in search of a problem, jeopardizing a system that has served Oregonians well for decades. Transitioning to mandatory in-person

voting with stringent ID requirements threatens to disenfranchise vulnerable populations, reduce voter participation, and undermine the democratic principles we cherish. I urge you to reject this bill and uphold Oregon's commitment to accessible and secure elections.?

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Tan