

Submitter: Cara Christofferson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Oregon's vote-by-mail system and to condemn the recent attacks that threaten our fundamental right to vote. Since its implementation in 2000, Oregon's universal mail-in voting has significantly enhanced civic participation, making the electoral process more accessible and secure for all citizens. The convenience of receiving and returning ballots by mail has led to increased voter turnout in a time when obstructions to our right to vote has been deemed a valid political strategy. This system does not favor any political party rather it ensures that every eligible voter, regardless of affiliation, has an equal opportunity to have their voice heard.

In recent years, Republican-led legislatures across the United States have introduced and enacted numerous bills that impose stricter voting requirements, many of which disproportionately affect marginalized communities. For instance, Georgia's SB 202 law, passed in 2021, introduced stricter voter ID requirements for mail-in ballots, reduced the number of ballot drop boxes in blue districts, and prohibited the distribution of food and water to voters waiting in line. These measures disproportionately affect marginalized communities and target Democratic-leaning voters.

These actions are a concerted effort to disenfranchise voters, often under the guise of preventing voter fraud—a phenomenon that studies have shown to be exceedingly rare. Such measures not only undermine the accessibility and inclusivity of the electoral process but also threaten the foundational democratic principles that ensure that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate in elections.

As Oregonians, we must stand united against these threats and reaffirm our commitment to a free, fair, and accessible electoral process. Our vote-by-mail system has proven to be a reliable and secure method of voting, and we must protect it from the republicans and billionaires who seek to undermine our democratic institutions. I urge this committee to continue supporting and strengthening Oregon's mail-in voting system and to take all necessary measures to safeguard our elections from further attacks. Our democracy depends on the active participation of its citizens, and we must ensure that every Oregonian can exercise their right to vote without fear or obstruction.

Sincerely,

Cara Christofferson