

Submitter:

Poppy Lochridge

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Vote by Mail is accessible, equitable, and working for Oregon.

Vote by Mail is an example of Oregon's commitment to freedom: Oregon voters have the freedom to educate themselves, to choose their candidates and positions with thought and care, and to engage in the franchise at a time and place where they have the ability to research, consider, and pause if needed. Returning to voting in-person only would reduce the freedom extended to Oregon voters.

Vote by mail also extends to Oregon a broader spectrum of opinions and choices; because Oregon operates entirely under vote by mail, the percentage of engaged voters in each election is higher than average turnouts were previously. This ensures that Oregon's policies are determined by the people who live under them, instead of by outside donors.

I am a 50 year old Oregon voter, and I do not remember the last time I had to go in-person to a polling station. I do not say that for effect - I literally do not remember the experience of voting in-person. What we have is working, and the biggest reasons to change it only support the elite who would rather keep voting turnout low.