

Submitter:

Maija Spencer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing in opposition of this bill. I strongly support Oregon's vote by mail as the standard for voting, and I wish more states followed our lead. This bill is an effort to further persuade historically disenfranchised Oregonians, particularly people of color, people with low incomes, and people with disabilities from participating in democracy by voting. It is ridiculous to make people have to take time off from work and juggle family obligations to stand in line to vote on one specific day. Voting by mail allows folks to vote at a time that is convenient for them. It also allows time to research issues, as often it is not until I look at my ballot that I realize there are a smaller races or less publicized measures that I need to understand before voting. With both Portland and Multnomah County using ranked choice voting, it takes time to go through the many options, as we are now making more choices on a race, not just a single vote for one candidate. Finally, I am curious what the cost of this measure would be to set up polling stations across the state, publicize them, and staff them. It doesn't make fiscal sense.