

Submitter:

Carol Garbacik

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose SB210, which would repeal vote-by-mail system in Oregon. Vote-by mail allows all registered voters to participate in elections, which is our right. I remember the days of having to stand in line to vote, it often would require standing outside in the cold, rain and sometimes the dark for over an hour to cast a ballot. Work and other obligations would make this very difficult at times. Older or disabled voters often could not do this, especially if they did not drive. Younger voters, too, often could not make it to the polls because of school/work/transportation factors. Those that were ill that day could not vote, or if they did, would risk spreading the illness to others in the crowded space. Because of these reasons, many people did not/ could not vote. Vote-by-mail allows one to vote at their convenience, unhurried and being less likely to make a mistake. Oregon has a high rate of voter turn-out because of the mail in system, and as I have read, an extremely low rate of voter fraud. It gives paper ballots, with verified signatures - thus eliminating the risk of electronic manipulation of ballots. It is a safe, effective system and I would suspect anybody who wants to do away with it is interested in suppressing votes. KEEP THE SYSTEM AS IT IS!!! All registered Oregon voters deserve to have a say in the elections!