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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Why Oregon Must Protect SB 210

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a national model for accessibility, security, and civic engagement. Repealing or restricting it would harm democracy by disenfranchising voters, reducing turnout, and undermining trust. Here's why we must protect it:

1. Expands Access & Equity

Vote-by-mail ensures every eligible voter—regardless of work schedules, transportation barriers, or disabilities—can participate. In 2022, 87% of Oregon voters cast ballots by mail, with especially high turnout among seniors (75% of voters 65+). Eliminating it would disproportionately burden marginalized groups, like rural residents (30% of Oregon's population) and hourly workers.

2. Boosts Voter Turnout

Oregon consistently leads the nation in participation, thanks to mail ballots. A 2020 Stanford study found vote-by-mail increases turnout by 3–5% overall, with even larger jumps for young voters (+9%) and low-propensity voters. In the 2022 midterms, Oregon's turnout (61%) outpaced the national average (46%). High turnout strengthens democracy by ensuring officials represent all constituents.

3. Enhances Election Security

Oregon's system has zero documented cases of fraud since its 2000 implementation. Ballots are verified via signature matching (rejected if mismatched) and barcode tracking. The Heritage Foundation's database shows only 20 credible fraud cases nationwide in 2020—out of 65 million mail ballots cast (0.00003% fraud rate). Paper ballots also provide a verifiable trail, unlike hackable electronic machines.

4. Saves Taxpayer Money

Vote-by-mail is not just fair—it's fiscally responsible. A 2016 Pew Charitable Trusts study confirmed Oregon's cost was 30% lower than comparable states' in-person systems. Also, for 2.1 million registered voters, we spend 5.4 million dollars, which is lower than many states all while getting a far higher voter turnout.

5. Overwhelmingly Popular

A 2023 DHM Research poll found 87% of Oregonians support vote-by-mail, including 78% of Republicans. Even after COVID, 76% of Americans want to keep mail voting options (Pew Research).

The Bottom Line

SB 210 threatens a system that works. Oregon's elections are more accessible, secure, and democratic because of vote-by-mail. Let's protect it—for fairness, for trust, and for every voice to be heard.

Sources:

Stanford study: <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/does-vote-mail-increase-voter-turnout>

Heritage Foundation fraud database: <https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud>

DHM Research: <https://www.dhmresearch.com>