

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am a disabled person who does often is unable to leave my home. I have many friends and acquaintances who are in similar circumstances. While in person voting as standard does allow for absentee ballots to be obtained, this creates a secondary class of voters by creating an extra step that we must take in order to cast our ballots and placing ours ballots outside of the regular stream of record. The ADA and all laws regarding access for disabled people are intended for equal access. Adding and extra step creates unequal access by requiring additional labor and documentation in order to exercise our rights.

Mail in voting has worked in Oregon for decades with relative few technical issues and always with the greatest of security. The primary challenge to the security of mail in ballots has not come from the process itself, but from the willful destruction of ballot collection points. It is these unlawful attempts to interfere with our elections that should be better prevented instead of the otherwise safe and secure process itself.

We must stand strong and clear against all efforts to undermine confidence in our voting systems. Changing Oregon voting to in person as standard gives legitimacy to the claim that there is any widespread fraud or security concerns in our elections. There is not, and responding in any way other than to reaffirm the existing process is accepting defeat. If we surrender our power in the vote we have given up our keystone of democracy and all will crumble with it.