

Submitter:

Cyndi Vipperman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210, which proposes making in-person voting on the date of an election the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. While I understand the intent to ensure election integrity, this bill raises significant concerns regarding accessibility, equity, and voter participation.

Oregon has long been a leader in promoting voter access through its vote-by-mail system, which has proven to be secure, efficient, and inclusive. By requiring in-person voting as the standard, SB 210 risks disenfranchising voters who face barriers to accessing polling places, including individuals with disabilities, elderly citizens, rural residents, and those with demanding work schedules or caregiving responsibilities.

Additionally, the requirement for government-issued identification may disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including low-income individuals and people of color, who may face challenges in obtaining such identification. This measure could inadvertently suppress voter turnout and undermine the democratic process.

The proposed changes also raise logistical and financial concerns. Transitioning to an in-person voting model would require significant investment in infrastructure, staffing, and training, diverting resources from other critical needs. Furthermore, the removal of state-funded postage for mail-in ballots places an undue burden on voters who rely on this method.

Oregon's current vote-by-mail system has consistently demonstrated its effectiveness in ensuring secure and accessible elections. Rather than imposing restrictive measures, we should focus on enhancing voter education, expanding access, and addressing any potential vulnerabilities within the existing framework.

I urge you to reject SB 210 and uphold Oregon's commitment to a fair and inclusive electoral process. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Vipperman

Bend, Or