

Submitter:

Anne E O'Brien

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

In support of Oregon Senate Bill
210

Submitted by Anne O'Brien, Oregon
Resident

March 31, 2025

Members of the Oregon State Senate,
I am writing to express my strong support for
Senate Bill 210, which would establish in
person voting on Election Day as the standard
voting method in Oregon. As a proud Oregon
resident, I believe this legislation strengthens
our democratic process by prioritizing
transparency, security, and civic engagement,
while ensuring that every Oregonian's voice is
heard in a fair and efficient manner.

First and foremost, in-person voting on
Election Day offers unmatched transparency
and accountability. When voters cast their
ballots at polling stations, election officials
can directly oversee the process, reducing
the potential for errors or concerns about
ballot integrity that arise with 100% vote by
mail. These include ballots mailed long after
the person has moved, ballots mailed to hotel
rooms, and ballots mailed to undeliverable/
non-existent addresses.

Oregon has a long history of innovation in
voting, but returning to the time-honored
tradition of in-person voting as the standard
would reinforce public trust in our elections at
a time when confidence in government
institutions is more important than ever.

Additionally, SB 210 would enhance election
security. In-person voting allows for real-time
verification of voter identity and eligibility,
minimizing risks associated with lost or
mishandled ballots. While I appreciate mail-in
voting can be considered convenient, the

physical act of voting in person, surrounded by fellow citizens, ensures a direct and secure connection between the voter and their ballot. This bill provides a clear framework to safeguard that connection.

Beyond security and transparency, making Election Day the standard voting method fosters a sense of community and shared purpose. Voting in person on a designated day transforms an individual act into a collective celebration of democracy. It encourages Oregonians to come together, engage in civic discourse, and take pride in our participatory system. While accommodations should remain available for those unable to vote in person due to military service, work, or attending school out of state, establishing this as the default would rekindle the communal spirit of Election Day.

Critics may argue that this shift reduces convenience, but I believe the benefits outweigh any minor inconveniences. Oregonians will make it work. Polling locations can be made accessible, lines can be managed efficiently, and resources can be allocated to ensure that no one is disenfranchised. SB 210 is an opportunity to balance accessibility with the integrity and unity that in-person voting brings.

Senate Bill 210 is a forward-thinking measure that honors Oregon's commitment to fair and credible elections. I urge you to pass this legislation and make in-person voting on Election Day the standard once again. Let's strengthen Oregon for Oregonians with clear, reliable, and unifying elections. We must restore trust in our most fundamental right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne O'Brien
Oregon Resident