

Submitter: Trevor Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Esteemed members of the committee,

I am honored to present this testimony advocating for the expansion and support of mail-in voting across our nation. As a resident of Oregon, a state that has successfully conducted all elections by mail since 2000, and as a election worker for the past 5 elections, I have witnessed firsthand the numerous benefits this system offers to the democratic process.?

Mail-in voting has been instrumental in increasing voter turnout by providing a convenient and accessible means for citizens to cast their ballots. By allowing voters to complete their ballots at their leisure, without the constraints of polling place hours or long lines, participation rates have seen a notable rise. For instance, a Stanford University study found that implementing vote-by-mail increased voter turnout by approximately 2%, demonstrating its effectiveness in encouraging broader electoral engagement. ?

Transitioning to mail-in voting can lead to significant cost savings for election administration. Traditional in-person voting requires substantial expenditures on staffing, equipment, and polling site logistics. In contrast, mail-in voting reduces the need for numerous polling stations and associated resources. Election officials can manage ballots and instructions more efficiently, leading to streamlined operations and reduced costs. ?

The process of mailing ballots to voters provides an opportunity to update and maintain accurate voter registration lists. Undeliverable ballots prompt election officials to verify and correct voter information, ensuring that voter rolls remain current and reducing the potential for errors or fraud. ?

Voting by mail offers individuals the flexibility to review their ballots thoroughly, consult resources, and make informed choices without the pressure of time constraints at polling stations. This method empowers voters to deliberate on their selections, leading to more thoughtful and deliberate participation in the democratic process. ?

Concerns about the security of mail-in voting have been extensively studied, and evidence indicates that it is a safe and secure method of casting ballots. States with longstanding mail-in voting systems like ours in Oregon, have implemented rigorous verification processes to ensure the integrity of elections. Processes that I myself

have helped with. A study by the conservative Heritage Foundation examined Oregon's vote-by-mail system and found only 14 cases of attempted mail fraud out of over 15.5 million ballots cast, highlighting the minimal incidence of fraud associated with this voting method. ?

Mail-in voting transcends political affiliations, offering benefits that are recognized across the political spectrum. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many states expanded mail-in voting options to ensure voter safety, leading to increased acceptance and utilization among diverse populations. Notably, conservative communities that were previously skeptical have begun to embrace mail-in voting, recognizing its advantages in facilitating voter participation. ?

In conclusion, mail-in voting stands as a proven, secure, and effective method to enhance voter participation, reduce administrative costs, and maintain the integrity of our electoral process. The success observed in our great state of Oregon serves as a compelling model for broader adoption. I urge policymakers to support and expand mail-in voting initiatives, ensuring that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate fully in our democracy. ? I also urge policymakers to fight for Oregon's sovereignty in administering its own elections without federal government overreach. SB 210 is clearly state politician pandering to the cynical and false narrative about election integrity. Mail in ballots are safe and effective and any effort to do away with our amazing system in Oregon is nothing less than an attempt at disenfranchising Oregon voters. It is undemocratic, un-American and un-Oregonian!