

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to end mail-in voting in Oregon. Having moved from Chicago to Oregon in 2010, I have experienced both in-person voting and mail-in voting, and I can say with certainty that mail-in voting is far superior in terms of accessibility, convenience, and promoting informed decision-making among voters.

Mail-in voting allows voters like myself the necessary time to thoughtfully research ballot selections before casting our votes. In contrast, the in-person voting process often feels rushed, and many of us have found ourselves in voting booths, unsure of who the candidates are or what their positions entail. This time-sensitive environment can lead to uninformed choices, and with so many races and issues on the ballot, it's simply not realistic to expect voters to research every detail in the limited time provided at a polling station.

The mail-in voting system works. It ensures that voters have the opportunity to carefully consider their options and make decisions that reflect their values and priorities. It also provides an accessible way for those who may face mobility challenges, have busy schedules, or live in rural areas to fully participate in the democratic process.

Instead of ending a system that has empowered voters and made the election process more inclusive, I urge the legislature to focus on addressing issues that genuinely affect our state and its citizens. Our attention and efforts should be directed toward improving education, healthcare, and the economy—not removing a system that encourages thoughtful civic engagement and participation.

Please keep Oregon's mail-in voting system intact. It works for Oregonians, and it strengthens our democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.