

Submitter: Jessica Byle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I oppose making voting in Oregon in-person. Over the course of my life I have lived in many other states with this requirement, and by far Oregon has been the smoothest, easiest voting process anywhere I have lived. I appreciate the time to sit with my ballot and research the candidates from my own home, I appreciate the convenience of being able to drop off my ballot at a library, or other community ballot drop. I am excited each year to participate in our elections in large part because of the convenience. I say all this, acknowledging that I am an able-bodied individual who could stand in line if I had to, however many cannot. Many cannot afford to take off work to vote in person and may have to prioritize their crucial working hours to ensure they and their family can put food on the table. Many of our elderly or infirm citizens cannot physically stand in line for voting, and may not be able to drive to the voting centers. Our voting participation in Oregon is higher than the national average, from 66-80% over the last 4 general elections. We have our vote-by-mail system to thank for this. If we as a state choose to divest of our current system for in-person voting, the result will be less participation and therefore a less diverse and less representative consensus. I firmly believe that we will fail to represent the will of our Oregonian population if we choose to eliminate our current voting system.