

Submitter: Elisabeth O'Brate

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for voting in Oregon. I believe it would create significant barriers for many Oregonians, particularly working individuals and people with disabilities.

For working people, the requirement to vote in person on a single day imposes an undue burden. Many individuals juggle multiple jobs, long hours, and inflexible schedules, leaving little room to stand in line at polling stations. This bill risks disenfranchising those who cannot afford to take time off work or face penalties for doing so.

Additionally, SB 210 disproportionately impacts people with disabilities. While the bill may include provisions for accessibility, the reality is that many polling locations still present challenges, such as inadequate transportation options or physical barriers. Oregon's current vote-by-mail system has been a model of inclusivity, allowing individuals with mobility issues or other disabilities to participate fully in the democratic process from the comfort of their homes.

Oregon has long been a leader in voter accessibility and participation. Moving away from a system that works effectively and equitably would be a step backward. I urge you to vote against SB 210 and to continue supporting policies that ensure every Oregonian has an equal opportunity to make their voice heard.