

Submitter: Dan Swerbilov

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Argument Against SB 210 March 30, 2025

Oregon's Vote by Mail system is secure and expedient and results in far greater turnout.

History-The People's Choice: Vote By Mail in Oregon has been in place statewide since 1998.

And was used in special elections in various counties prior to that. Oregon voters decided to

expand VBM to primary and general elections by a vote of 757,204 to 334,021. The people of

Oregon do not want to, may not be able to, and cannot afford to take a day off to stand in long lines to vote.

Fraud: Oregon and each county takes many steps to protect the integrity of election results

and are far less susceptible to fraud or error. Vote-by-mail is a paper-based system that is not

hackable and can easily be audited to ensure the election results are correct. This bill is not

about reducing fraud as there is no evidence that our system allows or invites that.

This bill

would put up unnecessary barriers and would result in voter suppression. President Trump

himself has voted by mail in three elections since 2017. But somehow he doesn't believe other

Americans should be able to. The harder it is to vote, the fewer people vote. I am proud to live in

a democracy where voting matters.

Security and Integrity: While the sponsors of the bill may point to the recent accidental

registration of some folk who are not permitted to vote, the safeguards put in place caught the

errors which were immediately remedied. From the State's website:

The Elections Division regularly sends updated voter registration lists to remove deceased

people, people who have moved, and other changes that impact eligibility to county election

offices. Oregon is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a national

data sharing system that ensures sharing of up-to-date voter registration information across

states. Oregon is a member of the National Change of Address, a system that provides a

secure dataset of individuals and families that have filed a change-of-address with the U.S.

Postal Service. These reports are shared to counties monthly to ensure up-to-date information.

Similarly, the state receives information from the Oregon Health Authority and other state

agencies that is regularly shared to complement national information. The DMV and Elections

Division share information daily to reflect automatic and online voter registration information.

This year-round information sharing ensures that when we mail ballots, they go to an accurate

list. Signature verification, unique barcodes, paper material that cannot be replicated, and other

security procedures are in place across the state. Voters are welcome to observe the ballot

counting process, test of voting machines before elections, and signature verification at election

offices across Oregon. All counties conduct hand recounts after statewide elections. These

recounts are available to the public. <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/faq.aspx>

Poll Workers Not Available: Because of the harassment and intimidation of poll workers by

rogue citizens encouraged to believe lies about voter fraud, there are fewer poll workers and will

be fewer polling places. It is not practical to initiate voting in person mandates at this time.

Vote by Mail ensures that every eligible voter can vote regardless of their family commitments, their work schedule, their mobility needs, or transportation requirements. It allows time for careful consideration and research on each candidate. It is simply one of the best policies in the State of Oregon.