

Submitter: Nolan Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

To lawmakers and fellow Oregonians alike,
This bill is part of a self-serving authoritarian movement to shrink our voter pool, leaving only those with time and resources to spare able to vote. These systems are old, true, and Oregon is in a minority by allowing vote-by-mail. But consider why these practices are so longstanding; for all the great work our founding fathers did, originally voting was intended only for wealthy men, and many families were left without a voice. However, our constitution was cleverly planned, so as time progressed women and working class folks became participants in democracy.

But the barriers are still there. Only a few states, like Oregon, have been brave enough to keep the founders' vision of an ever-stronger, ever-smarter America alive. Think of the hard-working blue collar family, the small business owner keeping their livelihood afloat, the youngster working hours bussing tables, saving up for trade school or college tuition.

Now ask them to take a whole day out of their lives at least, if not longer to prepare. A whole day of wages lost. A future made more uncertain.

Should all these honest people be forced to choose between their survival or their future, while men with the luxuries of power and time like David Brock Smith make all the decisions for them? Or should the voice of all people be heard loud and clear when we make democratic decisions?

Whether you vote blue, red, yellow or green, we can all agree that we live in a special state. Oregon is a city upon a hill within America, and our nation's eyes are upon us. Let us continue to shine as an example of the American experiment, as a reminder that only through American innovations does American tradition live on.