

Submitter: John Richards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Why is this bill being considered? To make it harder for Oregonians to vote? I love the fact that I can take the time to read the Voters' Pamphlet and learn more about candidates and voter initiatives makes me a better citizen. And how is Vote by Mail any different than absentee voting, which is done...wait for it...BY MAIL!

My other question is this. If you repeal Vote by Mail, what will you do to ensure elections are accessible to all? Will you expand time polls are open for multiple days? What about those who cannot get to the polls due to physical limitations?

According to research conducted by the nonpartisan Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office.

"Between the years 2000 and 2019, Oregonians cast approximately 60.9 million ballots in statewide and special elections. The Oregon Department of Justice estimates that the Criminal Justice Division (and the Civil Enforcement Division) obtained 38 criminal convictions relating to voter fraud during that period," the LFO report says.

"The division obtained 38 criminal convictions for voter fraud out of the 60.9 million ballots in Oregon elections cast over a 19-year period. That amounts to a rate of 0.0000006%. These figures demonstrate that voter fraud is exceedingly rare in Oregon." Voter fraud is also exceedingly rare across the country, LFO noted: "In June 2020, the Heritage Foundation reviewed all voter fraud cases it could find over a 36-year period. Heritage found 1,285 cases of voter fraud out of more than 1.8 billion ballots cast in all 50 states from 1982 to 2018. That amounts to a rate of 0.0000007%."

In my very humble personal opinion, this bill is not worthy of the time and effort spent on it. I would rather our legislature do a good audit of the current system in place and make changes that make it better for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my written testimony.

Kindest regards,
John M Richards
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