

Dear Chairman Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Senate Rules Committee Members,

I have been told there is no better joy than voting in person on Election Day. Who wouldn't relish the opportunity to drive to some polling station across town or even the county, get out and mingle with other patriots forced to stand in line, braving the elements during election season? My parents' generation constantly explains the virtues and character building of doing things the way they always did. If my parents can walk miles in the snow, with no school bus to get to school when they were kids, they can stand for some unknown time in the elements on the hard pavement outside some polling place to vote as seniors.

Contrast this with the horrible convenience of vote-by-mail elections. Vote-by-mail has just made us soft. Imagine the horror of casting your ballot from the comfort and security of your home, without the delightful experience of navigating to a polling station and dealing with people. The ease and accessibility created by vote-by-mail elections have led to increased voter participation—an outcome we must all be suspicious of, as the more people that vote, means our votes have less power.

Voting by mail accommodates too many people: those with mobility challenges, demanding jobs, or other commitments that make in-person voting arduous. You should just bring your unruly children to the polling place and let them see democracy in action. If you have to miss work to vote, you should consider those hours and wages a donation to the democratic process. This inclusivity we've been experiencing with vote-by-mail threatens the very fabric of our electoral process.

Vote-by-mail offers a deceptive allure of convenience and accessibility, but it is the noble act of in-person voting on Election Day that truly embiggen the spirit of our people. If we have the choice of doing things the easy way or the hard way, let's go with the harder way. It will help us build character, and lord knows we need more characters around here.

Sarcastically yours,

Carl Fisher

Tigard, Oregon