

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Here are key points in support of Oregon's current all-mail system:

--The conservative Heritage Foundation, which has warned of the risks of mail voting, found 14 cases of attempted mail fraud out of roughly 15.5 million ballots cast in Oregon since that state started conducting elections by mail in 1998.

-- Turnout rates tend to be higher in states that conduct elections by mail. A Stanford University study found that participation increased by roughly 2 percentage points in three states that rolled out universal voting by mail from 1996 to 2018. It had no effect on partisan outcome and did not appear to give an advantage to any particular racial, economic or age group.....In Colorado, 77% of voting age citizens cast ballots in the 2016 presidential election, the highest figure in the country, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. In Oregon, 77% of voting age citizens cast ballots in the 2016 presidential election, well above the national rate of 63%.

-- Mail-in voting reduces the cost of recruiting and training poll workers. This allows local election officials and county election officials to focus on other problems. It also eases the task of finding suitable polling locations.

-- Mail-in provides better access. A survey issued by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) found that one in seven voters with disabilities reported difficulties voting in the 2022 midterms and the likelihood of encountering a difficulty as a disabled voter was significantly higher compared to a nondisabled voter — 20% to 6%, respectively.