

Submitter: Barbara Baldwin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Please vote against SB 210, and retain the vote by mail process that Oregon has used successfully for many years.

Voting in person on only 1 day is quite unfair to many people, including (but not limited to) those of limited mobility or unable to stand for long periods of time, those who work long hours or multiple jobs, those in very rural areas or with no resources or transportation to get to a polling place, those with impaired vision who may need assistance reading a ballot, those who must be out of the area on voting day, those who feel rushed in a voting booth or dont understand how to use a voting machine, and more.

In addition, there are other factors that make one day voting less practical and more hazardous, such as inclement weather, malfunction of voting machines or problems with polling locations, no permanent record of votes if polling machines malfunction, potential for intimidation of voters at polling places, probability of lower voter turnout due to the inconvenience of voting at polling places, the danger to those who operate and oversee the polling places, and more.

With vote by mail, voters can complete their ballots in advance or at the last minute, and can mail them, put them in a drop box, or turn them in directly to the appropriate county office if they don't trust the mail or drop boxes. There are provisions for someone who does not receive a ballot to get one, and for those who have no address for their location. There is a permanent record of votes, with signatures, that can be recounted or checked as necessary. The whole process is safer, more secure, and more accurate. There is also significantly greater voter turnout by mail.

No voting method is perfect in every way and for everyone, but the vote by mail system we use in Oregon is far superior to one day only voting at specific polling places.