

Submitter: Sophia Gordon Williams  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Oregon Legislature,

To remove mail in voting is inequitable. For many people, the requirement of physically going to the polls cause issue. Think of these situations:

- An individual with children who cannot get childcare, therefore cannot go vote at a polling station.
- A disabled individual who does not have their own transportation to a polling location.
- Working class individuals who work during polling times.

These are just a few examples of the negative ramifications of requiring in person voting.

To support mail in voting, here are a few points:

- Mail in voting is securely sealed and mailed back to the polling office. Done within ones place of residence, this form is less likely to be tampered with or taken.
- Gives individuals more time to look at and think over candidates and measures. In my personal experience, I enjoy getting to sit down at my kitchen table and do research while I vote. This informs my vote.
- Requires less staffing. Mail in voting does not require a physical location to be staffed.
- Allows everybody to vote. Parents, working people and individuals with disabilities all have the equal opportunity of voting with this method.

As you can see from my points above, to remove mail in voting is to remove voting as an opportunity for many groups of people. You will see lower voter turn out if Oregon returns to strictly in person voting. Is that what Oregon wants?

As a voter and educator in Oregon, please consider my viewpoint. As somebody who educates future voters, I believe to keep them informed and participating in the voting process mail in voting should be continued.

Thank you.