

Submitter:

Nancy Uravich

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly OPPOSE SB 210 which would eliminate Oregon's vote by mail elections and require the majority of voters to appear in person on election day. This would be an expensive proposition that would also serve to discourage voter participation. I've always been very proud of Oregon's vote by mail system -- easy to use & encourages more people to vote as they can vote from home at a time that is convenient for them. An in-person voting requirement that takes place only on election day is physically demanding for people with mobility challenges, difficult for working people, and voters may be discouraged from voting due to inclement weather. Additionally the costs and staffing of polling places in each precinct would be prohibitive under this bill. It requires potentially seven paid staffers at each polling place of different political parties for a minimum of 12 hours. Not to mention the difficulty of locating polling places since schools are no longer used as polling locations due to the risk to students of that many strangers on their school grounds. Also, additional expense will be required to purchase multiple physical polling booths for each precinct which will only be used rarely and will need to be transported and stored. Oregon currently has a very cost-effective and convenient way for the most voters to participate in the electoral process by voting by mail. Our system is not broken--it does not need fixing. All this bill tells me is that MAGA wants to suppress voting even more. Thank you for considering my testimony.