

Submitter: Aidra Wall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining Oregon's current vote-by-mail system and to oppose any efforts to reintroduce in-person voting as the primary method of casting ballots in our state. Oregon has been a pioneer in vote-by-mail, implementing it statewide in 1998 through Ballot Measure 60. Since then, our state has consistently demonstrated the numerous benefits of this system:

**Increased Voter Participation:** Oregon's vote-by-mail system has contributed to one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation, with 61.5% of eligible voters participating.

**Enhanced Accessibility:** Vote-by-mail provides convenient voting options for all Oregonians, regardless of work commitments, physical limitations, or residential location.

**Election Integrity:** Our system incorporates comprehensive security protocols that protect the democratic process.

**Cost-Effectiveness:** Vote-by-mail reduces taxpayer expenses while maintaining excellent standards in election management.

**Voter Confidence:** Mail-in voting allows voters to study their ballots, research candidates, and make informed choices without the pressure of making quick decisions at a polling place.

**Non-Partisan Benefits:** Studies have shown that universal mail-in voting does not favor any particular political party, but rather lowers barriers to voting for all citizens.

**Proven Track Record:** Oregon has successfully conducted all elections by mail since 2000, including presidential elections, demonstrating the system's reliability and effectiveness.

Adaptability: During challenging times, such as the recent pandemic, our vote-by-mail system ensured that all Oregonians could safely exercise their right to vote without risking their health.

Reverting to in-person voting as the primary method would be a nonsensical action for our state to enact. It would result in decreased voter participation, increased costs, and potential disenfranchisement of voters who face barriers to reaching polling places.

I urge you to protect and preserve Oregon's successful, essential vote-by-mail system, which continues to ensure accessible, secure, and efficient elections for all Oregonians.