

Submitter:

Annette Brainard

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Senator David Brock Smith and Senators

I am asking you to please vote "Yes"

on SB 210 for several reasons.

As a young child I had the opportunity to accompany both my parents to the precinct in my small rural town. I looked forward to going with them because I seen how important it was to them. They made it appoint to go every time even after a long day of work. We got to see our neighbors and catch up on their families. I could not wait to be 18 years old and go to my old school vote to. Unfortunately, I when that time came I could not due to the ballot measure passing to have vote by mail. Today as an older adult, I nor my children have had the opportunity to do as my parents. Today the community where I grew up is not the same and neighbors do not for the most part know each other.

Mail in elections have their negative and positive factors but, negative out way most considerations. Things I have witnessed and heard are a detrimental to voter outcomes.

1. Old addresses, not up to date. People move in state to another location or out of state and fail update. For some reason sometimes it does not get updated at county/state office. This address confusion is a problem.

2. A person has passed away sometimes years before and they receive a ballot even after their loved one has notified their county.

3. Our postal service in my county has had issues of not getting the ballots to the voters. In Primary 2024 election some of the voters in my county did not receive their ballot. Instead of not receiving their ballot they receive two at the same time for General 2024. One was dated for Primary and other for General. Imagine how confusing it was to our older citizens.

4. There are many people signed up to vote but have not ever voted. After not voting in two year cycle they should become inactive.

5. Some people's signature change for one reason or another, maybe because of stroke or accident.

6. No voter ID: Through mail in voting we do not know who filled out the ballot. Also whether each person voting is a legal resident.

7. There is identifying numbers and party codes on return envelopes so there could be a faulty count in voting outcomes due to collection ballots.

8. The cost of mailing to and paid by state for return ballots to county.

9. Not all ballots not being counted on day they are suppose to or county receiving ballots late yet still counted.

The cost, legal ID, signature, up to date voting registration and address records, identifying number and party code, confusion to individuals, or late ballots accepted. All these reason are why mail-in-voting is not a good practice.

People in opposition of physical-in-person those factors could be eliminated or reduced by the following.

1. Through organization of precincts the long lines can be reduced by alphabet lines.

2. Employers giving employees 1/2 day off or businesses and offices closed for the day.

3. People who cannot not drive can catch a bus, train, taxi or friend with no or reduced fees.

4. People can still request an absentee ballot.

5. If people do not trust collection of ballots at polls (precinct) then they can go to their county elections office and cast their ballots there.

6. People receive their voter guides, palm cards, and postcards early enough they can read up, write their list for who and what to vote on. Take the list with them when they vote.

These oppositions to in-person voting can be reduced or eliminated through thought and consideration.

Vote "Yes" to in person, same day voting.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this.