

Submitter: Shannon HALL MCKINNEY
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Oregon has successfully conducted elections primarily through vote-by-mail since 1998, making it one of the most secure, convenient, and accessible voting systems in the country. Opposing a shift to in-person voting as the standard method in Oregon is justified for several key reasons:

Accessibility and Voter Participation – Vote-by-mail ensures that all eligible voters, including those in rural areas, people with disabilities, and those with demanding work schedules, can easily cast their ballots without facing long lines, limited polling places, or transportation barriers.

Election Security and Integrity – Oregon’s vote-by-mail system has built-in safeguards, such as signature verification and ballot tracking, which help prevent fraud and ensure the integrity of the electoral process. The state has a strong track record of secure elections without widespread issues of fraud or tampering.

Cost-Effectiveness – Conducting elections primarily by mail reduces the costs associated with staffing and maintaining numerous polling places. Transitioning to an in-person voting model would require significant investments in infrastructure, election workers, and security measures.

Efficiency and Reliability – With vote-by-mail, election officials can process ballots well before Election Day, reducing delays in results reporting. A shift to in-person voting could introduce logistical challenges, including equipment failures and long wait times, leading to potential disenfranchisement.

Disaster Preparedness – Oregon is prone to natural disasters such as wildfires and severe weather, which could disrupt in-person voting. A vote-by-mail system ensures that elections can proceed smoothly without voters being impacted by unforeseen events.

Given these factors, maintaining vote-by-mail as Oregon’s standard election method is the best way to uphold democratic participation, security, and efficiency.