

Submitter: Dawniris Eversz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Legislators of our beautiful state,

I'm a lifelong Oregon citizen and I've always felt some prideful superiority when it comes to our history of vote-by-mail and ballot-led initiatives. What engaged citizens we are, what love of democracy! Which is why I feel gobsmacked, appalled, and frankly derisive about Senator Smith's regressive stroke of genius. What reason does a government have, one with such a rich history of participatory democracy, to choose to alienate and disenfranchise its citizens? Exactly what does he think belies our desire to throw out our effective, convenient, and helpful system in order to queue in long lines, in the November rain, to the tune of one booth per 20,000 voting citizens? Nothing! This proposed legislation is absurd and baldly flies in the face of reality, sanity, and objective fact.

UVBM is proven to increase voter participation in elections. Our own former Secretary of State Phil Keisling published a paper on this very topic in 2023, called "Vote at Home Election Systems and Higher Turnout about [sic] 18–34-Year-Olds"! It says in part, "to a remarkable degree, most of the nation's leading journalists, democracy reform organizations, and elected officials continue to largely ignore, downplay — or even dismiss outright — the potentially profound implications of these noticeably high turnout rates." UVBM is a powerful method of election reform; what reason on earth do Oregonians have to regress? To force elders to stand in the rain to vote and get flu right before Thanksgiving? To force workers to lose hours and money in order to participate? This bill is dishonorable, and so silly!

Anyway, I hope that reason will prevail, and we don't witness the farce that is Oregonians VOTING BY MAIL to sacrifice our right to vote by mail. We would be ridiculed for this grave unforced error (or, as the kids say, "self-own").