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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

A cornerstone of SB 210 is its emphasis on election security. By requiring voters to present valid government-issued ID—whether voting in person or requesting a mail ballot—the bill ensures that only eligible electors participate, protecting the sanctity of each vote. Voter ID is a common-sense safeguard already in place in dozens of states and countries, proven to prevent fraud without disenfranchising legitimate voters. Coupled with the shift to in-person voting as the norm, this measure creates a verifiable, observable process that reduces the risks of lost, stolen, or manipulated ballots inherent in a mail-based system.

SB 210 also restores Election Day as a meaningful civic ritual. Voting in person fosters a shared sense of purpose, bringing Oregonians together to exercise their rights as a community. While the bill preserves vote-by-mail as an option for those unable to vote in person—such as military and overseas voters, or those with out-of-state addresses—it rightly prioritizes the security and immediacy of in-person voting for the majority. Requiring all ballots to be returned by Election Day further ensures timely, conclusive results, eliminating the uncertainty of late-arriving mail votes. Critics may point to convenience, but SB 210 strikes a practical balance. It retains mail voting for those who truly need it, while removing the state's obligation to pay return postage—a fair adjustment that encourages personal responsibility without imposing undue burdens. In-person voting can be made accessible through ample polling sites, extended hours, and support for those with mobility challenges, as seen in states nationwide.

Convenience should not come at the expense of confidence in our elections. SB 210 exemplifies democracy in action. Oregonians deserve a direct say in how their elections are conducted, and this bill trusts voters to decide what's best for their state. It's a chance to affirm that secure, transparent elections matter more than ever in an age of skepticism about democratic institutions. Oregon SB 210 isn't just a policy change—it's a statement of principle. It prioritizes election integrity, voter verification, and civic engagement, offering a system Oregonians can trust.