

Submitter:

Matthew Downs

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Convenience is at the heart of this issue. I grew up in Pennsylvania and voted in 2 presidential elections before moving to Oregon. Arriving in Oregon, I was blown away at the simplicity and democracy in action when voting by mail. In PA, I saw long lines full of people at the end of their work days unable to get home to their families because the system in place held them captive if they chose to participate in representative democracy, something I should hope each one of our state Senators would encourage. Not only does SB 210 make it more inconvenient for able-bodied folks to vote, it makes it relatively impossible for anyone with mobility barriers.

My last plea the Senators is to consider the importance of both an informed populace and diversity of thought in our democracy. In OR, voters have the time to research the measures, bonds, and candidates on the ballot - something that feels like a surprise in PA. This leads people to vote strictly along party lines, or with whichever group they can quickly identify with that supports the measure. The reason our country continues to grow and thrive is because we have such great diversity in thought and ability to express those thoughts and participate in government. SB 210 only serves to silence voters unnecessarily and further decrease informed participation in our government. This will only end badly.