

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose this measure. Voting now is more vital than ever. Easily accessible voting by mail is essential to create a thriving democracy.

Mail voting, has been in use since it helped soldiers cast ballots during the Civil War. Mail voting has been increasing in usage since the 1980s, with unprecedented expansions taking place since the COVID-19 pandemic. Mail voting is a safe, secure, and reliable voting method used by voters of all political parties.

Voting by mail is a secure system that provides you with more time and flexibility to cast your ballot in case you can't make it to the polls on Election Day. There is absolutely no evidence of an increase in "voter fraud" with vote by mail.

There are many rumors and false reports that voting by mail will lead to voter fraud – that is not true. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, "States have multiple tools to address valid security concerns and protect election integrity when it comes to mail ballots. And recent technologies and strategies have significantly enhanced the security of mail balloting."

The advantages to voting by mail include voting from the comfort of your own home and taking your time to research and fill out your ballot.

The Oregon Legislature first approved mail-in voting in 1981 and it was adopted by a majority of counties by 1987. But it wasn't until 1998 that Oregon voters approved a measure requiring that all elections be vote by mail. The state then became the first to conduct a presidential election by mail in 2000. Let's continue to hold the gold standard as leaders in voter turn out.

Myself and many others work in a field that can not leave or easily take time away from work to exercise our right to vote. Making things more accessible like vote in mail makes it more successful for EVERYONE.