

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly disagree with this proposal that requires same-day, in-person voting the standard method for conducting an election. I think the current mailing system is vastly superior for the following reasons:

1. Mail-in voting facilitates voting for ALL Oregon citizens regardless of where they reside and/or their physical proximity to a designated voting location. Oregon has a very rate of voter participation because of our current ballot system. In-person voting can be difficult for working people with odd shifts, people who cannot leave a work site to vote, people with mobility and/or health issues who would feel unable to stand in line for a long period of time, etc.
2. I believe the current system provides a safer, more secure method of voting.
3. I believe the current system removes the onus of visiting a physical polling site where people maybe be crowded around the site, presenting a threatening or intimidating behavior.
4. A change to the system, requiring physical polling places, opens the door to political manipulation by such schemes as limiting the number of operating machines at a polling site, locating polling places in inconvenient locations and/or sites with limited parking, questionable "power outages" or unseen problems that occur the day of voting, etc.
5. The proposed requirement for government ID is not well-defined. A number of states which are actively seeking to restrict voting are imposing difficult and burdensome requirements such as providing ONLY original documents (e.g., birth certificates, marriage licenses, court-approval name changes, proof of residency, etc.). These restrictions are designed to cost money and time, with the intent to discourage people from pursuing this documentation.

The phrase "We, the people" means exactly that and we should be encouraging the people of our state to vote freely and regularly regarding their governance.