

Submitter:

Moe Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing today in opposition to bill SB-210. By forcing Oregon voters to return to in-person voting, this bill would bring back the ultimatum of choosing to go to work or vote. Because Election Day is on a weekday, and is not a holiday (paid or otherwise), all employed Oregonians working in-person would have to either use PTO/ Sick time (if they have it) or must forfeit their pay in order to vote in-person. By forcing this ultimatum on people working in-person, this bill has the potential to disincentivize voting by associating it with loss of pay during an already incoming recession. Mail-in voting completely bypasses this issue as the votes can be submitted outside of business hours. Additionally, the bill lists no reasons for making voting in-person the "normal method" compared to mail-in, despite the fact that Oregon has ranked consistently among the top 10 states with voter turnout since ballot 60 was implemented in 1998 (with the exception of '08 and '12). If Oregon has such an established history of high voter turnout after ballot 60, why toss out mail-in voting? Is popular vote not the necessity of a democracy? In summary, I oppose this bill as it unnecessarily brings back the ultimatum of choosing to vote or work for Oregonians who work in-person, which has the potential to stifle voter-turnout.