

As indicated on my digital Written Testimony Submission Form, I strongly oppose SB 210 and find those who sponsor it to be a stain on the Oregon government and the citizens they supposedly serve. I find it hard to believe anyone would sponsor or be in support of SB 210 without harboring ulterior motives that do not serve the best interests of Oregon citizens.

SB 210 would restrict citizens' ability to vote. It is completely unreasonable to assume every Oregon citizen has the means to vote in person to begin with, much less on one specific day. SB 210 does not take into consideration the many barriers that people may face with in-person voting such as: limited mobility & inaccessible infrastructure, chronic illness, financial strain & being unable or allowed to take time off work, and transportation to and from voting centers. This is not a comprehensive list and does not even begin to address how these barriers can intersect.

Those in favor of SB 210 may argue that a vote-by-mail option would still be available and would address the concerns I've listed above. The alternative vote-by-mail option outlined still fails to ensure all are able to vote. This option requires that ballots be requested by voters "no later than 21 days before the election". This requirement means the vote-by-mail option would not protect the voting rights of citizens who experience medical or personal emergencies such as unforeseen illness or hospitalization the day of election or the days leading up to it.

This vote-by-mail alternative continues to fall short as a suitable alternative as SB 210 would remove the state's responsibility to pay for postage on mail-in ballots and would require mail-in ballots be received by 8:00pm on the election day where currently mail-in ballots are only required to have been mailed the day of the election. This alternative adds a financial barrier to voting and restricts the amount of time citizens have to make informed votes.

For those still insistent that in-person voting the day of the election is a reasonable and manageable standard, I would like to point out two important details about this proposed standard. Voting booths would only be required to be open for 8 hours, severely limiting the times citizens can actually go and vote. SB 210 would also remove "language concerning the number of voting booth required in each county, based on population" and instead would give the Secretary of State and county clerks complete control over how many booths will be required. These combined could result in overcrowded voting booths and exceptionally long wait times in order to vote.

SB 210 would do more to prevent Oregon citizens from voting than it would to protect citizens voting rights and prevent voter fraud. SB 210 creates many barriers to voting that are simply unnecessary. Oregon citizens have a right to vote. The Oregon government has an obligation to protect that right for all of its citizens, not just those that are physically and financially able to vote in-person.

All quotations are taken from the SB 210 Staff Measure Summary prepared by Leslie Porter found on the Oregon State Legislature website.

Link used to access the document:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/296917>