

Submitter: Katherine Houston
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

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Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Strong Opposition to SB 210 – Preservation of Oregon’s Vote-by-Mail System

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my firm and unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 210, which would dismantle Oregon’s long-standing and highly effective vote-by-mail system by requiring in-person voting.

Oregon has been a national leader in voting accessibility and security through its vote-by-mail system. It is a model of equity—ensuring that all eligible voters, regardless of physical ability, work schedule, location, or socioeconomic status, can participate in our democratic process without unnecessary barriers.

Replacing this proven system with in-person voting would take us backwards. Standing in long lines at polling places—whether in school gyms, armories, or community halls—is a relic of the past and creates disproportionate obstacles for working people, the elderly, people with disabilities, and rural voters. These are not enhancements to our democracy; they are deliberate barriers.

Let’s be clear: efforts to dismantle vote-by-mail are not about election integrity—they are about voter suppression. Once in-person voting is mandated, it becomes easier to limit polling locations, restrict hours, and manufacture long wait times. These tactics deter participation and undermine the principle of “one person, one vote.”

This bill is not just about changing logistics—it is about chipping away at democracy itself. Oregon’s vote-by-mail system has consistently proven to be secure, inclusive, and popular. Undoing it would be an act of aggression against the rights of Oregonians and the integrity of our elections.

I urge you to reject SB 210 and stand with the voters of Oregon. Our democracy depends on access, equity, and trust—and vote-by-mail delivers all three.

Respectfully,
Kate Houston
Milwaukie, Oregon