

Submitter:

Julie Baweja

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210, which would make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. This proposed change would be a significant step backward for voter accessibility, fairness, and participation in our democracy.

For decades, Oregon has successfully allowed alternatives to in-person Election Day voting, such as vote-by-mail and early voting, ensuring that all eligible voters—regardless of work schedules, family responsibilities, health, or mobility—can participate in elections. Restricting voting to a single day at a physical polling place would impose unnecessary barriers, especially for working parents, individuals with disabilities, rural residents, and those who cannot afford to take time off from work.

Personally, I rely on the flexibility of early and mail-in voting to ensure I have adequate time to research candidates and ballot measures before making an informed decision. Additionally, as a parent, making it to a polling place on Election Day presents logistical challenges that could impact my ability to vote. No voter should have to choose between their civic duty and their responsibilities at home or work.

There is no evidence that our current system is flawed, insecure, or in need of such a drastic overhaul. In fact, Oregon has built a strong tradition of accessible, secure, and reliable elections.