

Submitter:

Jonathan Lo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the continued availability of vote-by-mail, a practice that has been a cornerstone of Oregon's electoral process since 2000. As you know, Oregon was the first state in the nation to implement vote-by-mail as the primary method of voting, and it has proven to be a highly effective, secure, and accessible way to engage voters across the state.

For over two decades, Oregon has successfully conducted elections almost exclusively by mail. This system has made voting more accessible, especially for people in rural areas, individuals with disabilities, and those facing other barriers to in-person voting. It has also led to record-high voter turnout, with Oregon consistently ranking among the highest in the nation for voter participation. The convenience and security of voting by mail allow Oregonians to vote at their own pace, ensuring that they are fully informed and able to cast their ballots in a way that fits their personal circumstances.

Additionally, vote-by-mail in Oregon has been shown to reduce the risk of errors or voter disenfranchisement that can sometimes occur at in-person polling stations, particularly in times of crisis or public health concerns, as we witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. By maintaining vote-by-mail, Oregon has ensured that all eligible citizens, regardless of their physical ability, geographic location, or work schedules, have equal access to participate in our democracy.

The success of Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a model that has demonstrated the effectiveness of providing citizens with a convenient, safe, and secure way to vote. It is critical that we continue to uphold this system so that every eligible Oregonian can exercise their fundamental right to vote without unnecessary barriers.

I respectfully urge you to support the continuation of vote-by-mail in Oregon and work to ensure that all citizens retain access to this essential voting option. Preserving and expanding mail-in voting helps maintain the integrity, fairness, and inclusivity of our elections, and ensures that every voice is heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will take the necessary steps to continue making Oregon's elections accessible and equitable for all voters.