

Submitter:

Miranda Paige

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As a resident of Oregon, I am very much proud of our vote by mail system, and I think it should be extended across the entire USA. We know that our voting rights are being chipped away by the current people in power as they are trying to dismantle our democracy by making voting harder and less accessible. We want more voting accessibility, not less.

The main reason I love vote by mail is that I can make informed decisions. I have the ability to take time and do my research in the comfort of my own home and during my free time. I love receiving voting pamphlets with blurbs about the candidates and what they stand for, and having the ability to look more into each candidate and the ballot measures being presented. I am more informed with vote by mail. I am more involved with vote by mail.

I have lived in another state before and I have participated in elections where I had to stand in long lines, just to be anxious about the people around me, the increasing voter intimidation, and the stress of having to remember who and what I am voting for when the moment comes to stand in the booth and start filling out questions. The stress of the situation made it harder to remember the information, especially with having a long line of people behind me that are waiting for their turn, adding pressure to fill it out as quickly as possible.

I love being able to take my time to research who and what I will be voting for. Vote by mail is a major win for democracy. Not only should vote by mail be the default for everyone in this country (along with having in person voting for those who can't vote by mail), we need to prioritize making voting more accessible. We should do automatic voter registration when a resident turns 18, and not only that but we should stop forcing people to register to a specific party. Registering for one party severely limits who shows up on the ballot and it limits the choices. If we want a true democracy, we should reintroduce ranked choice voting for statewide elections. Oregon residents voted no because they wanted to see the results from how it functioned in Portland before making it statewide. It's not that people didn't want it, it is just that it introduced too early for people to understand how it works on a greater scale.

Oregon residents want to keep vote by mail. It makes it way easier, less stressful, and it has the voters be more informed and more involved.

Thank you.