

Submitter: Adam Sparks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
To the Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210, the proposal to repeal Oregon's vote-by-mail system and mandate in-person voting as the default. As a resident of Oregon and someone who values inclusive and accessible democracy, I believe this bill is a serious step backward for our state.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is widely respected across the country for being secure, efficient, and easy to use. It has increased participation across diverse communities by making the process flexible and accessible to more people. Replacing that with a single-day, in-person voting model would create unnecessary barriers for many voters, including working parents, people with disabilities, rural residents, and those without easy transportation.

Vote-by-mail gives people the time to review their ballots thoughtfully, research candidates and measures, and vote from the safety and comfort of their homes. It removes the stress and logistical challenges that come with long lines, limited polling places, or inflexible work schedules.

There is no credible evidence that Oregon's vote-by-mail system is insecure or vulnerable to widespread fraud. In fact, it has been rigorously audited and proven to be one of the most trustworthy systems in the country. Repealing it would not restore trust. It would undermine public confidence in our elections by introducing confusion, restrictions, and logistical hurdles where none currently exist.

SB 210 also introduces unnecessary burdens by requiring government-issued ID and eliminating postage-paid return envelopes. These changes would especially hurt low-income and historically marginalized voters. Instead of expanding access to the ballot, this bill would shrink it.

I moved to Oregon in part because this state has a strong reputation for civic engagement and innovation. Our vote-by-mail system is a model that works for participation, for integrity, and for trust. Repealing it would harm all three.

I strongly urge the committee to reject SB 210 and uphold Oregon's leadership in accessible, modern elections.

Respectfully,

Adam Sparks,
Portland OR