

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

To the Senate Rules Committee,

On behalf of Sparkstone LLC, I am writing to express our strong opposition to SB 210, which proposes to repeal Oregon's vote-by-mail system and require in-person voting as the standard method of participation in state elections.

As a technology-focused small business headquartered in Oregon, we rely on systems that are secure, efficient, and accessible. These same principles have long defined our state's vote-by-mail system. For decades, this system has supported democratic engagement by making it easier for working professionals, caregivers, disabled individuals, and rural residents to participate in elections without having to sacrifice work hours or personal responsibilities.

Vote-by-mail has consistently improved voter turnout and has become an essential part of Oregon's civic identity. It allows voters the time to research their choices, make informed decisions, and cast their ballots without added stress. It also helps reduce the burden on Election Day infrastructure and has been repeatedly confirmed as reliable through auditing and oversight. Oregon's mail-in system is not only secure, it is effective and trusted.

For employers like Sparkstone LLC, vote-by-mail also makes practical sense. It enables our employees to vote on their own time without needing to rearrange their workday or face long lines at polling locations. It supports a democratic process that is inclusive, flexible, and fair.

SB 210 would introduce unnecessary limitations, such as eliminating prepaid ballot return postage and requiring specific forms of government-issued ID. These changes would place new burdens on low-income voters, rural residents, and those already facing barriers to civic participation. Rather than improving our elections, this bill would make them less accessible and less equitable.

Sparkstone LLC is committed to innovation and equity. We believe Oregon's vote-by-mail system reflects both of those values. Repealing it would harm public trust and undermine a system that has served our state well.

We respectfully urge you to oppose SB 210 and continue to support accessible and inclusive voting in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Adam Sparks
Founder, Sparkstone LLC
Portland, OR