

Submitter: Jayson GATES

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I strongly oppose SB-210 ending vote by mail in Oregon.

?Senate Bill 210 proposes a shift from Oregon's established vote-by-mail system to predominantly in-person voting, a move that would significantly reduce voter participation by imposing barriers for individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and those residing in remote areas. The bill's requirement for government-issued photo identification disenfranchise eligible voters who lack such documentation, effectively suppressing their right to vote. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has a proven track record of enhancing voter turnout and ensuring electoral integrity; dismantling it in favor of in-person voting lacks justification and undermines decades of successful practice. The proposed changes could lead to increased administrative costs and logistical challenges, straining county resources and potentially causing confusion among voters. Maintaining the current vote-by-mail system preserves accessibility, convenience, and the democratic principle of inclusive participation for all eligible Oregonians.