

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

March 31, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Rules

RE: Opposition to SB 210

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to establish in-person voting as the standard method of voting in Oregon elections. I currently serve as the State Senator for Senate District 15 in Western Washington County, which includes Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, and the Rock Creek area.

Oregon has long been a national leader in election accessibility, having pioneered vote-by-mail in 1998. Voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 60, making Oregon the first state in the country to conduct its primary and general elections entirely by mail. Our vote-by-mail system has been praised for increasing voter participation and providing greater accessibility to all Oregonians. Today, Oregon continues to lead by ensuring that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Vote-by-mail in Oregon is a highly secure system. We have a reliable paper trail for every ballot, ensuring that every vote cast can be verified and audited. This system has been proven to be effective in safeguarding election integrity. Former Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, a Republican, was a staunch advocate for Oregon's vote-by-mail system. He repeatedly spoke about his confidence in the security and reliability of Oregon's elections. "All Oregonians should be proud of our state's election systems and processes. As the first state to implement vote-by-mail and automatic voter registration at the DMV, we are leading the nation and defining the best practices on accessibility, security, and integrity in elections. Now, we are encouraging other states to follow our example... Everyone who is eligible to vote should be able to vote. Oregonians can be proud that we are leading the way and are actively assisting and encouraging other states to join us in excellence."

Just recently, we came together in a bipartisan manner to honor Secretary Richardson on the Senate floor for his contributions to Oregon. This unity underscores that Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a shared value, regardless of party affiliation. It is a testament to our commitment to maintaining the integrity of our elections.

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We also need to acknowledge that when issues arise, such as the recent motor voter error, Oregon has proven that it can effectively address and correct problems. The motor voter issue, which affected only a very small number of voters, was recognized, and swiftly addressed by our election officials. The public hearing on this matter, held in the House Rules Committee this session, demonstrated that Oregon has the necessary protocols in place to fix issues and ensure transparency and accountability. This is a sign of a functioning democracy where concerns are heard, addressed, and resolved.

This is precisely why SB 210's move away from vote-by-mail is so concerning. It could disenfranchise vulnerable populations, create unnecessary barriers to participation, and undermine a proven and secure method of voting. It's important to remember that, while there is a national push to restrict voting rights, such as the "Save Voting Act," which could negatively impact women who use their married names, Oregon has always stood firm in supporting secure, accessible voting for all.

As we look at national trends that threaten voting rights, Oregon's vote-by-mail system remains a shining example of how we can preserve and protect democracy. I stand proudly in support of maintaining and improving Oregon's mail-in ballot system, not dismantling it.

I urge a no vote on Senate Bill 210. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janeen Sollman'.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15