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| Submitter: | Sam Stewart |
| On Behalf Of: | Common Sense |
| Committee: | Senate Committee On Rules |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | SB210 |

I am writing to express my strong support for Measure SB210, which seeks to establish in-person voting as the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. This measure represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity, transparency, and security of our electoral process.

In-person voting ensures that every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast their ballot in a secure and controlled environment. By requiring valid government-issued identification, Measure SB210 adds an essential layer of verification, safeguarding against potential fraud and ensuring that every vote is legitimate. Requiring identification is already standard practice in numerous aspects of our daily lives, such as purchasing alcohol, boarding an airplane, or even something as simple as checking into a hotel. It is only fitting that something as vital as participating in our democracy demands the same level of accountability and security. This is a critical measure to uphold the trust and confidence of Oregonians in our democratic system.

While retaining vote-by-mail for military and overseas voters is a thoughtful provision, the emphasis on in-person voting aligns with the principle of civic engagement. It encourages voters to actively participate in the democratic process, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Additionally, the requirement for ballots to be returned by the date of the election promotes timely and efficient election results, reducing delays and uncertainties that can undermine public trust. Beyond this, transitioning to in-person voting can yield significant time and cost savings for election administration. By reducing reliance on widespread mail-in ballots, the state can lower expenses associated with printing, mailing, and processing ballots, as well as alleviate the logistical challenges of managing late or misplaced ballots. This streamlined approach not only enhances the overall efficiency of the electoral process but also allows for more focused allocation of resources to ensure secure and well-monitored polling stations.

Measure SB210 is a forward-thinking initiative that balances accessibility with accountability. It reflects the values of fairness and integrity that are foundational to our democracy. I urge the members of this Assembly to support this measure and refer it to the people for their approval.