

Submitter:

Valerie Blaha

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am opposed to SB 210 which proposes to end mail-in elections in Oregon.

Oregonians voted on this in 1998 and overwhelmingly approved mail-in elections. The push to end Oregon's (working) voting system comes from those (including the fascists now in charge of our country) who wish to disenfranchise people by making it harder to cast ballots. This is anti-American.

In fact, the reason our country is currently undergoing a hostile takeover by Russian assets is because U.S. citizens have not taken our responsibility as voters seriously. Out of ~260 million adults, only about 150 million voted last November. This means that one third of us didn't bother to cast ballots in an election that is already having catastrophic effects on our standing in the world, on the stock market, and likely on the health and well-being of US residents for years to come.

If fraud is a concern, it is minimal, and could be addressed in other ways. Even re-registering Oregonians would likely be less expensive than submitting the electorate to what would be a costly and contentious election (if SB 210 was sent to voters).

I am highly concerned about the lack of accessibility for voters should mail-in voting be eliminated. I've seen the ridiculous lines in terrible weather in other states. Voting is our most basic civic duty, and we shouldn't have to jump through hoops to do it. The barriers to voting are high especially if you are elderly, disabled, lack transportation, or lack the ability to take time off work. Unless and until we make Election day a national holiday with paid leave, requiring in-person voting is anathema to promoting a participatory electorate. But again, reducing access to the polls is clearly the anti-American goal of this bill.

Please vote against SB 210.