

Submitter:

Marie Naughton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to dismantle Oregon's long-standing vote-by-mail system in favor of mandatory in-person voting on Election Day. It is nothing less than our ass assault on our Democratic freedoms.

This bill represents a blatant attempt at voter suppression and stands as a shameless attack on the democratic principles that underpin our state and nation. Voting is the cornerstone of our civic duty—a powerful expression of our shared responsibility to shape the future of our communities and our country. In a participatory democracy like ours, this duty ensures that power remains in the hands of the people, not just the rich and powerful.

The proposed shift to exclusive in-person voting, coupled with stringent identification requirements is anti-democratic, as it threatens to disenfranchise countless Oregonians. Many citizens, including the elderly, disabled, and those with demanding work schedules, rely on the convenience and flexibility that vote-by-mail provides. Forcing these individuals to vote in person creates unnecessary barriers and undermines the inclusivity that our electoral system strives to achieve.

Furthermore, the security and integrity of Oregon's vote-by-mail system are well-documented. Each ballot is meticulously tracked, and the system leaves a verifiable paper trail, ensuring transparency and trust in our elections. Transitioning away from this proven method not only disregards empirical evidence but also sows unwarranted doubt in the electoral process.

It is imperative to recognize that SB 210 does not serve the interests of Oregonians but instead appears to be a politically motivated maneuver aimed at restricting access to the ballot box. Such actions are antithetical to our democratic values and the foundational principles of our republic.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 210 and uphold the integrity of Oregon's electoral system for the sake of our American Experiment, the revolutionary and world-changing assertion that a nation could be founded on principles of democracy, liberty, and self-governance—an unprecedented vision at the time of the country's founding. It captures the bold belief that a diverse people could govern themselves through reason, law, and mutual consent, challenging centuries of monarchies and

authoritarian rule.

Let Oregon continue to lead by example, demonstrating that democracy must be accessible, secure, and inclusive if it is to survive. As Benjamin Franklin warned, we have “a republic, if you can keep it.” Preserving that republic requires rejecting efforts like SB 210 that would suppress the vote and weaken the very foundations of our democracy.

Sincerely (and as respectfully as possible given this assault on democratic freedom),

Marie Naughton
19771 S Lyons Rd
Oregon City OR 97045
marie_naughton@me.com