

Submitter:

Max Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I think it is plain as day that this bill is an attempt to suppress the ability of Oregonians to exercise their rights to vote. Oregon has been a nationwide leader in mail-in voting, being the first state to switch over to exclusive mail-in voting back in 1998 after Oregonians voted in favor of a ballot measure. Since then, Oregon, and the handful of other states with all mail-in voting, have seen higher voter turnout than the nation as a whole.

Voting by mail makes it easier for every eligible voter to engage in the democratic process, and in an age where American democratic institutions are being threatened and tested like never before, the motives behind this bill could not be more apparent. This is an attack on democracy. There is no evidence for any massive scale voter fraud in the United States, it is simply just not something that happens; it is just a manufactured excuse to justify these unprecedented, un-American attacks on our institutions, individual voters, and election workers; along with providing pretext to question the results of elections more broadly, which can have deadly consequences as we saw at the US Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

Voter fraud is also easy to prosecute, as the act of voting creates a government record AND a paper trail of the incident. Were talking a few dozen to a few hundred incidents per election cycle, an inconceivably small number when compared to the over 150 million votes were cast in 2024 election. Noncitizen voting is also exceptionally rare, more often than not it is done by legal permanent residents who mistakenly and believe that they are eligible. requiring proof of citizenship when going to vote is redundant as you need to be an American citizen to register to vote in the first place. Ultimately, voter ID requirements make it harder for lower-income, minority, and rural voters to turnout. In a healthy democracy, it is imperative that voting is BOTH accessible and secure, and Oregon's system of voting is both. I know for a fact that the GOP sponsors of this bill know that the claims of fraud and noncitizen voting are not true; they are doing this to make it easier for them to win instead of playing the game fairly and moderating their positions on key issues in order to be more appealing to the average Oregonian voter, and to get in the good graces of President Trump.

In a healthy democracy, the ability to vote should not be a partisan issue; and it is deeply troubling to me that there are serious individuals in Salem who are actively seeking to undermine democracy. This bill echoes the illegal executive order President Trump signed recently that requires states to roll back mail-in voting and require proof of citizenship at the polling site. If this bill passes, it will be a sign that

Oregon is willing to capitulate to Trump's demands and become a willing participant in the democratic backsliding we are seeing in this country; and it would only be the beginning. We should not bow to the demands of President Trump. Oregon should continue to stand as a bastion of democratic and egalitarian values in the face of an increasingly authoritarian and hostile federal government. I strongly oppose this bill and am in favor of maintaining the status quo on this matter.