

Submitter: Peter Addy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
I Oppose SB210

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has revolutionized how we participate in democracy since 1998. As an Oregonian, I'm proud of how this innovative approach makes voting accessible, secure, and efficient.

Every registered voter automatically receives a ballot weeks before Election Day. This allows you to vote at home, thoroughly research candidates, and return your ballot without facing long lines or crowded polling places. Parents appreciate discussing ballot measures with their children, workers value flexibility around busy schedules, and those with mobility challenges can participate without transportation concerns.

Our state consistently ranks among the highest in voter turnout nationwide[3][5]. The system enjoys remarkable bipartisan support—polls show 77% of Oregonians approve of vote-by-mail, with only 11% opposing it[2]. What's interesting is that it was originally championed by Republicans and later adopted statewide with cross-party consensus[6].

Despite concerns about mail voting, Oregon's system implements multiple layers of protection. The results speak for themselves—out of 61 million ballots cast since 2000, only 38 fraud cases were convicted, representing just 0.00006%[1][4].

By eliminating traditional polling stations, Oregon saves approximately \$3 million per election cycle[2][3]. Resources can instead focus on ballot processing, verification, and education efforts[1][2].

Oregon's system proves that vote-by-mail strengthens democracy by making it more accessible, secure, and cost-effective[5]. As one county clerk noted, initial opposition "died out" once people experienced the benefits firsthand[2].

Sincerely,
Peter Addy

Citations:

[1] <https://www.deschutes.org/clerk/page/election-security>

[2] <https://www.vox.com/21401321/oregon-vote-by-mail-2020-presidential-election>

[3] <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/statistics/vote-by-mail-timeline.pdf>

[4] <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/politics/elections/oregon-election-security-ballots-fraud-voter/283-a0529d07-2f2b-4814-bf39-b92608bc7a8f>

[5] <https://theconversation.com/mail-in-voting-lessons-from-oregon-the-state-with-the-longest-history-of-voting-by-mail-145155>

[6] <https://www.democracydocket.com/opinion/oregon-was-the-first-state-to-conduct-elections-exclusively-by-mail-heres-how-it-shifted-civic-participation/>