

Submitter:

Peter Sooley

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am opposed to this measure because voting by mail is a working system that promotes civic engagement and fosters a healthy democratic process. It is well-received, the public understands it, and, in comparison to other states that have in-person voting, it more successfully carries the will of our communities.

We have little to no evidence that there is any abuse of this system and do not need to revert to in-person voting without real justification.

I believe this measure comes at a time when there is a growing movement to limit democratic access and to make it more difficult for people to have collective influence over their government. If the intent of this measure is to bring accountability to the presiding powers, then we should be expanding, not contracting, our electoral access.

On a personal level, voting by mail lessens the barriers to my engagement. There have been times where I just didn't want to participate in an election. The small amount of difference between filling a ballot at home and waiting in line on election day, has been just enough to get me to vote where otherwise I may have just stayed home.

I'm certainly not alone in feeling this way and I think the authors of this bill know that. They understand that they would see turnout drop immediately should this bill pass. They are counting on it.

I stand in firm opposition to this bill. We should NOT get rid of our long-standing tradition of vote-by-mail.