

Submitter: Justin McGillivray
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
To Whom It May Concern,

I write today in strong opposition to Senate Bill SB 210, which seeks to eliminate Oregon's proven, effective vote-by-mail system in favor of requiring in-person voting on Election Day. As a U.S. military veteran, I find this proposal not only regressive but deeply harmful to working Oregonians and the democratic process itself.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has long been a model for the nation—safe, secure, accessible, and cost-effective. It provides citizens the time and flexibility to engage with their civic duty thoughtfully and without unnecessary hardship. For those of us who serve our country and communities—whether in uniform, in public service, or in the home—this access is not just convenient; it is essential.

As a veteran, I defended the democratic principles this bill now threatens. As a civil servant, I witness firsthand how bureaucratic changes affect working families. And as a single father, I can attest that carving out hours to stand in line at a polling place—on a single day, during limited hours—is not always feasible. Oregon's vote-by-mail system honors the complex realities of modern life while upholding the integrity of our elections.

This bill does nothing to enhance election security or participation. Instead, it imposes unnecessary barriers and invites voter suppression under the guise of standardization. We should be expanding access to the ballot—not restricting it.

I urge you to reject this bill and protect one of Oregon's most successful democratic innovations.