

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

In our time living in Portland, I or my spouse would frequently be travelling for business on the day of the election, making it physically impossible to vote in person. Such trips were sometimes required with minimal notice, preventing our ability to plan for our absence. At such times the inability to vote online would have effectively removed our ability to vote.

We have a more than 40-year history of successful voting by mail in Oregon, starting with its use in local/special elections, expanding it to primary and general elections, and eventually to vote-by-mail only. In that time, the ability to vote prior to election day, and to vote from the convenience of one's nearby post box or drop box has made voting accessible to all eligible voters, regardless of their hours of work or travel schedules or physical and time limitations to otherwise travel to a place of voting.

The success of early in-person and mail voting was on full display during the 2020 general election. Amid an ongoing global pandemic and record turnout, more than 69% of voters nationwide cast their ballot before Election Day—up from about 40% of voters just four years earlier. And ongoing scrutiny, audits, and analysis by actors across the political spectrum have repeatedly upheld the 2020 general election as the most secure in American history. (ref: <https://electioninnovation.org/update/is-voting-by-mail-secure-and-how-can-i-know-my-mail-in-vote-is-counted/>)