

Submitter:

Regan Dugger

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Election integrity has long since been called into question when it comes to Vote-by-Mail. We have seen ballot boxes being stuffed, duplicate ballots being counted in mass, and far too many other instances of election fraud since the elimination of in-person voting. Claims that it will harm anyone is simply not true. Those who cannot make it to the polls on Election Day can request an absentee ballot. If they feel intimidated or a hardship, then request that absentee ballot. The truth is, if someone wants to vote using the USPS, then they still have that ability under this bill. They've always had the ability. That never changed, at any time before, and it won't change if this bill is passed.

Election Day used to be something we anticipated. Employers allowing their workers to take paid time away from work to fulfil their Constitutional rights! The poll workers checked ID at the door and each voter signed the ballot book before walking over to the vacant poll. They pull the lever to close the curtains, select their candidates and issues, then pulled the lever again, opening the curtain and locking in their votes. It's a shame that we ever got away from voting in person, getting to know your poll workers, seeing your neighbors as they waited in line for their chance to cast their ballot. Now, we hope we get the ballot in the mail. We hope that when it is dropped off someone will actually collect it, they will check the signatures and make sure the citizen is alive, registered, and at the right location. Under Vote-by-Mail, nothing is certain. Under Vote-by-Mail, no Republican has been elected to the Governor's office. Under Vote-by-Mail, the Democrats have had complete control to push through anything and everything they want. Vote-by-Mail has taken away far more from the constituents of this state than anything else has ever done.

Vote-by-Mail was a mistake. Just like the well-intentioned addition of a short legislative session, in even-numbered years to fix budgetary issues ONLY, Vote-by-Mail has done far more to damage than good. It has eroded the trust we once had for our elected officials like the hurricanes washing away sandy beaches. Our legislature should be brave enough to stand up together, stop Vote-by-Mail as it exists now (and return to absentee ballots), and return to voting in-person where identification is presented, verified, and each vote counted. I fully support the elimination of this bad experiment we called Vote-by-Mail and stand behind this SB 210.