

Submitter:

Juan Fontenla

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Vote by mail is the most convenient way for me to cast my vote and I ask that Oregon continue to provide voting by mail. I work on weekdays until from 8:00am to 6:00pm and having to go to a polling location and wait in line to cast my ballot makes it more difficult for me. I have lived in states where I had to drive to the nearest voting location to my home after a long commute from my office. I remember being tired and waiting in long lines with others who were also tired and anxious to get home to eat with their families. Once I received my ballot I had to wait again for a voting station that offered very little comfort and privacy when casting my vote. The table wobbled and the lighting made it difficult for me to read the ballot. There was also the pressure to finish quickly because I knew all the people in line behind me were waiting to finish the process so they could return home after a long day. The entire voting in person experience was not very welcoming. When I came to Oregon and participated in my first election, I received my ballot at home and was able to take my time carefully examining everything and seeking out resources to help me make the decision of who and what I thought was best for the State of Oregon. I could sit comfortably at my own desk and take my time filling in my choices under my desk lamp. I could use my magnifying glass when I needed to read small print and I didn't feel rushed. I also felt I had more privacy to make the choice I wanted to make without fear of criticism or judgement. I firmly believe that mail in voting makes voting much more accessible and less stressful for others. For all these reasons, I would implore you to keep mail in voting as is. It is one very important thing that makes Oregon a great state and ensures it will continue to be great long into the future.