

Submitter: W Kelley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Hello,

I am opposed to this measure. As a disabled person, I want my vote to be counted, but it seems Republicans nationwide are trying to disenfranchise me and others like me who can not physically wait in line to vote in person.

Bills like this also unfairly impact elderly and poor voters who may not be able to drive, or even have access to any transportation where they live.

In person voting is also highly dependent on nearby poll site locations, which unfairly impacts those who may not be able to drive long distances, particularly if they work long shifts. It also opens things up to voter intimidation, from either side, and I frankly do not trust electronic voting machines. A paper trail is much safer and verifiable than those things are, strictly from a cyber security perspective.

Should this bill even pass, I would hope that Oregon makes election day a state holiday so that everyone gets a day off to vote. I hope that travel is arranged for those who might have difficulty with transportation. And I hope that a fund is started for helping those who can't afford the cost of even more restrictive ID requirements the federal government is now insisting on.

I am slightly left of center, more of a moderate centrist, and I am not against safe elections and only legal citizens voting. But I am against the sort of vote rigging other GOP led initiatives have implemented to discourage voting, like denying water to those waiting in line in the sun, or moving polling places further away from low income population centers.

If the GOP wish to keep pushing a disenfranchisement agenda against voters in our state, I would much rather keep the system we have now of mail in voting, but tighten sign ups to confirming legal Oregon citizens only. It may be time to have our own state e-verification system (like login.gov) to verify credentials such as birth certificates and social security numbers.

We need to keep our vote by mail, which the GOP seems so afraid of. The federal government is already overstepping boundaries with a state's right to hold their own elections, and I do not trust the current federal administration to keep elections fair and equal at this juncture.

Voting by mail is safe, easy, and fair. It doesn't interfere with people's work schedules, having to find childcare or bring children with them, or ability to get to a distant polling place if their shift runs long. It insures that a polling place is never too far away, or that people have to stand for long periods, or even sit for long periods either without being in pain.

I wish that I could run for office, to put some more moderate common sense back into politics. I don't feel many are on the right track. But we are supposed to keep things in balanced based on what we voted to impliment for our state, first and foremost. Trying to roll back what we voted for instead of securing with minor adjustments is a step too far.

For all of these reasons, I ask our state representatives, please do not pass this bill. Do not prevent the people of Oregon from having equal access to what we already voted for many years ago: mail in voting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.