

Submitter: Stephanie Gonzalez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

My name is Stephanie Gonzalez and I am writing to strongly oppose SB 210 which would eliminate Oregon's proven and successful vote-by-mail system and make in-person voting on Election Day the standard. This bill is not just unnecessary — it actively undermines access to the ballot and threatens the fundamental right of Oregonians to participate in democracy.

Oregon has led the nation in secure, accessible, and efficient elections for over two decades. Our vote-by-mail system, in place since 1998, has consistently resulted in some of the highest voter turnout rates in the country while maintaining election security and integrity. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in our system — only overwhelming proof that it works. It allows people from all walks of life to participate in elections without unnecessary barriers.

Personally, I am fortunate that my employer provides paid time off to vote. However, I know that is not the case for many my fellow Oregonians. There are countless individuals -working parents, people with multiple jobs, seniors, rural voters, and those with disabilities — who cannot afford to take time away from work, find child care, or travel long distances to cast a ballot in person.

Vote-by-mail solves these problems. It ensures that voting is not a privilege reserved for those with flexible schedules, but a right that every eligible voter can exercise.

This bill does not strengthen democracy; it restricts it. It does not empower voters; it places undue burdens on them. Instead of making it harder to vote, we should be looking for ways to make civic participation even more accessible. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been a model for the nation, and we must protect it.

I urge you to reject this bill and uphold Oregon's proud tradition of free, fair, and accessible elections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.