

Opposition to Oregon SB 210

Oregon has historically been at the forefront of voter participation, consistently ranking among the top states due to its accessible vote-by-mail system¹. Senate Bill 210 proposes significant changes to this system, replacing it with in-person voting and implementing strict voter ID requirements. Research indicates that reduced voter turnout often benefits Republican candidates, as observed in states with similar legislation². SB 210 could disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including low-income individuals and people of color, who are less likely to possess government-issued photo IDs. Such measures undermine the democratic principle of equal access to the ballot box and risk disenfranchising thousands of eligible voters.

Voter ID laws have been demonstrated to suppress turnout among specific demographics, particularly minority groups². Studies suggest that up to 11% of American adults lack the required photo ID, posing substantial barriers for those already facing systemic inequities². For instance, in Wisconsin, stringent voter ID laws have disproportionately affected Black voters, highlighting the discriminatory nature of such regulations³. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has served as an exemplary model of inclusivity and efficiency, ensuring high participation rates across diverse communities¹. Senate Bill 210 not only jeopardizes this success but also aligns with a broader national trend of voter suppression tactics aimed at consolidating political power. This bill represents a regression for Oregon and poses a threat to the integrity of its electoral process.

¹ https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/Voter_Turnout_History_General_Election.pdf

² <https://www.cato.org/research-briefs-economic-policy/strict-voter-identification-laws-turnout-election-outcomes>

³ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/putting-voter-id-into-wisconsin-constitution-will-disenfranchise-eligible-voters-opinion/ar-AA1BGt4f>