

Submitter: Jill Brandt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Vote by mail floods the state with ballots that many people never intend on using, leaving them vulnerable to fraud and tampering. This is especially true in places with high occupancy, such as senior living facilities and dormitories. Ballots get sent to addresses of deceased persons, people who have moved out of the state, and non-citizens. There is no chain of custody on a ballot that goes through the mail - it passes through many anonymous hands. Vote by mail is not secure in any way.

Voting in person at a precinct level is the way to go. If Election Day is made into a state holiday (which is a suggested amendment for this bill), only a few people would need to request a mail-in ballot. Poll stations will be set up in precincts so that no one will have to go any further than they would normally go to their local grocery store or park or school. Precincts are the smallest geographical political unit. We did it this way when I was growing up, and it was exciting to see neighbors and friends and feel like you were really a part of something. Not everyone in the world gets this privilege. We should take it more seriously.

The requirement to show ID when getting your ballot is imperative. We are required to show ID in the US to participate in society in countless ways - to rent a car, fly on a plane, purchase alcohol, fishing and hunting licenses, do a bank transaction, rent an apartment, apply for a loan, get a tan at a tanning salon, go to the doctor's office, and get meds from the pharmacy, to name just a few. Voting should be on the top of the list of things requiring positive identification.

I support SB 210 and hope the voters get the opportunity to make the final decision on this bill.