

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

This bill looks to increase the cost of running an election, make it more difficult for voters to keep informed about candidates (in-person voting means less opportunity to double check information about candidates and their positions when actually filling out your ballot, not to mention having current access to for/against statements for different measures), and allow for easier voter suppression by interested parties. On that last point, we have various studies that have proven that not only do photo ID laws prevent votes from legitimate voters but also disproportionately impact minorities with no actual reduction in voter fraud. Not to mention that the rate of voter fraud in Oregon, as shown by extensive auditing, is approximately 0.00006% (Oregon Sec. of State website), and those cases of fraud were caught and led to criminal convictions. Additionally, looking directly at the text of this bill, it only requires a single voting booth for every 20,000 electors while only requiring polling locations to be open for 8 hours on election day. Are you. Absolutely. Insane. Do the math. If unscrupulous election officials decide to provide only the minimum amount of voting equipment and time, and assuming the same voter turnout we've seen in presidential elections over the last 20 years (approximately 81%, with even our most recent turnout of 75% being one of the highest turnouts in the country), each voter would have approximately 51 seconds to vote before needing to move along. If we assume that, due to the stipulation that the polling places remain open until all in-line voters have finished voting or left, the polling places remain open an additional 8 hours for a total of 16 hours (with the last voters waiting at least 8 hours in line) each voter still has less than 2 minutes to fill out their entire ballot, including not only national elections but local candidates, local measures, and state-wide measures, and to wrack their brain trying to remember which way they were going to vote on each one if they'd actually done research on each subject ahead of time, research that you can do in the moment with mail-in voting. There may be accusations of fearmongering over this hypothetical, but we can see an example of exactly this approach in Georgia, where some individuals voting during primary elections in 2020 had to wait in excess of 5 hours before entering the polling location (per NPR). This bill is nothing more than an attempt to suppress votes veiled in a false, fabricated narrative that somehow there is mass voter fraud happening in Oregon despite absolutely no evidence for that claim and plenty of evidence against it. It is nothing more than a continuation of the Big Lie pushed by the right, and the fact that it is even being proposed here is absolutely disgusting.