

Submitter: Lindsey Newkirk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. This proposed shift away from our established vote-by-mail system is both unnecessary and detrimental to the accessibility and security of our electoral process.

Our current system has consistently resulted in higher voter participation rates compared to national averages, demonstrating its effectiveness in encouraging civic engagement. Concerns about the security of mail-in voting have been thoroughly investigated and debunked. The Oregon Secretary of State's office maintains rigorous protocols to ensure the integrity of our elections, including regular updates to voter registration lists to remove deceased individuals and those who have moved out of state.

Transitioning to an in-person voting system would create unnecessary barriers for many Oregonians. The convenience of voting by mail allows citizens to carefully consider their choices and cast their ballots without the constraints of work schedules, transportation issues, or physical disabilities. This inclusivity is a cornerstone of our democratic process and should not be undermined.

In conclusion, SB 210 proposes an unnecessary and harmful change to a voting system that has served Oregon exceptionally well for decades. Our vote-by-mail process is secure, efficient, and widely supported by the public. I urge you to reject this bill and uphold the integrity and accessibility of Oregon's electoral system.?

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Newkirk