

Submitter: Christopher Buckingham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that seeks to eliminate mail-in voting in our state. This voting method has been integral to our electoral process, providing numerous benefits that ensure fair and accessible elections for all citizens.?

I first voted ever by mail in Oregon in the late 90's while studying for my degree at Oregon state. I don't think I would have done it if I had to go to and wait in line and fill out a ballot behind a curtain. I had no time or patience for that. Like me, many citizens work hard and have a lot of responsibilities- voting is not a responsibility but a right & diminishing this right is shameful. Now more than ever our democracy is being attacked and we cannot allow this to happen in our wonderful state.

I added some other reasoning that another voter wrote, but I agree with... copied below:

Accessibility: Mail-in voting enables individuals who may face challenges voting in person—such as seniors, people with disabilities, and those with demanding work schedules—to participate fully in our democracy. By removing this option, we risk disenfranchising a significant portion of our electorate.?

Voter Turnout: Studies have shown that states implementing mail-in voting often experience increased voter participation. For instance, Oregon, which conducts elections exclusively by mail, boasts one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation. ?

Security: Mail-in voting is a secure process with rigorous verification measures in place. Ballots are authenticated through signature matching and other safeguards to prevent fraud. Research indicates that instances of fraud in mail-in voting are exceedingly rare. ?

Cost-Effectiveness: Conducting elections by mail can lead to significant cost savings by reducing the need for staffing and maintaining numerous polling stations. These resources can be reallocated to other critical areas within our state's budget.?

Eliminating mail-in voting would be a regressive step that undermines the inclusivity and efficiency of our electoral system. I urge you to oppose this bill and support initiatives that promote accessible and secure voting methods for all constituents.?

Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue.