

March 31, 2025

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I ask that you **oppose** SB 210, which would eliminate mail-in Ballots in Oregon.

I am a single mother, public high school teacher, and graduate student. Although I live a life that is full of privilege, losing the ability to mail in my ballot would significantly impact my ability to participate in our democracy; at times, it would make it entirely impossible. In addition to my demanding schedule, I live with a chronic health condition that often prevents me from being able to stand for long periods of time. While I am extremely fortunate to have a career that allows me to alternate between sitting and standing as needed, this accommodation would not be available to me if mail-in voting was not an option.

I am far from alone among Oregonians who would be adversely affected by such a bill. Countless others struggle to balance multiple responsibilities and/or health challenges: people holding multiple jobs, seniors with mobility issues, non-seniors with mobility issues, parents balancing work, children, and sometimes school, people who hold jobs that do not offer standard predictable schedules, the list goes on and on. So many of these people would face major barriers if not for the option to mail in their ballots.

Just this past election, I had the fortune of taking my journalism students to the Clackamas County Clerk's office, where we observed the process of verifying and counting ballots. In a time when our nation is so severely divided, my students were able to witness Oregonians from all political parties, sitting together at tables, unified in their purpose of ensuring accurate ballot results. Every political party was represented — all smiling, relaxed, and seemingly enjoying the opportunity to engage in this civil service. Students were surprised to see how many people were needed to accomplish this task, and this is true because Oregon has made it possible for all residents to participate in our democratic system. It is the very heart of what our nation was founded upon.

Oregon is a trailblazer when it comes to systems that give both equality and equity to its citizens. Our state demonstrates what true democracy. Let's not regress.

Thank you for opposing SB 210.

Sincerely,



Sunni S. Svangren, M.Ed.