

Submitter: Sarah Frey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 210, which proposes to make in-person voting on the date of an election the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon. This change would replace our long-standing, secure, and accessible mail-in voting system with a model that imposes significant challenges for many Oregonians.

Preserving Accessibility and Inclusiveness:

Oregon's mail-in voting system has long provided a means for all citizens—including seniors, individuals with disabilities, working families, and rural residents—to vote without undue hardship. The flexibility and safety of mail-in ballots ensure that every eligible voter can participate in our democratic process. Shifting to a mandatory in-person system risks disenfranchising those who depend on the convenience of mail voting.

Logistical and Financial Concerns:

Our current system spreads the voting process over several weeks, which eases the burden on local election infrastructures. By contrast, requiring all voters to cast their ballots in person on a single day would likely create severe strains at polling locations. Increased wait times, higher administrative costs, and logistical complications are probable outcomes. These factors could deter voter participation, particularly among communities already facing access challenges.

Maintaining Election Integrity and Voter Confidence:

While in-person voting is a critical element of democracy, mandating it as the sole method on election day may lead to unnecessary risks. A single-day, in-person system could be prone to technical issues, long queues, and other administrative errors that would not only frustrate voters but also undermine confidence in the election process. Oregon's mail-in system, by contrast, has a proven record of reliability and security that supports the integrity of our elections.

Conclusion:

For the reasons outlined above, I urge you to oppose SB 210. Maintaining our current mail-in system is essential to ensuring that every Oregonian has the opportunity to vote safely, conveniently, and securely. I appreciate your consideration and ask that you stand with the many residents who depend on a voting system that truly meets the needs of our diverse communities.

Thank you for your time.