

Submitter: Alyssa Stanwood-Gorvine  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

While SB 210 intends to enhance election integrity, implementing such a change could lead to several significant issues which will disproportionately impact people of lower socioeconomic status, people of color, and those with disabilities. Please consider the following effects of passing SB210.

1. Reduced Voter Participation: Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been associated with high voter turnout by providing accessible and convenient voting options. Requiring in-person voting may disenfranchise voters who face challenges such as mobility issues, work commitments, or childcare responsibilities, potentially decreasing overall participation.

2. Increased Administrative Costs: Transitioning back to in-person voting would necessitate substantial investment in infrastructure, including staffing polling stations, securing venues, and purchasing equipment. These expenses could place a financial strain on state and local budgets without a clear return on investment.

3. Logistical Challenges: Coordinating in-person voting statewide involves complex logistics, from ensuring adequate polling locations to managing long lines and wait times. Oregon's current system streamlines the voting process.

4. Security and Accuracy Concerns: Oregon's vote-by-mail system has proven to be secure and reliable, with multiple layers of verification and a paper trail that facilitates audits. Shifting to in-person voting does not inherently enhance security.

Oregon's vote-by-mail system appears to be in the best interest of preserving high voter engagement, managing state resources effectively, and upholding the integrity of the electoral process.