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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
To whom it may concern:

I am a lifelong Oregonian, and remember as a child sitting at the kitchen table with my father while he voted. We'd flip through the Voter Guide together and he would explain the political parties and candidates, statewide measures and local levies. He'd ask my opinions and we would talk through how each decision affected our family, our city, our state. Vote by mail had just been implemented, and he kept commenting on how easy the process was. Previously, he had to make a trip to my elementary school on election night after work, usually with me and my younger sister in tow. I have hazy memories of fidgeting in line, bored by the adult activities going on around me. At the kitchen table, though, civic engagement became interesting. Having that early exposure to the process of voting taught me that yes, my vote does matter, and I have voted in every election since I turned 18.

As I got older, I saw how other states conducted their elections and wondered why they still used in-person voting. Why would they keep a system that made voting harder for single fathers like mine? What is the point of making people wait in long lines, of having polling places that are inaccessible? How are people supposed to participate when they don't have time to wait in line after work?

In 2025, there is simply no good reason to return to in-person voting after decades of success. Fraud is vanishingly rare (out of 60.9 million ballots cast between 2000-2019, there have been only 38 convictions for election fraud), it doesn't advantage one party over the other, and it makes it possible for all voters to participate regardless of their circumstances. We currently have an excellent system in place to ensure Oregonians' voices are heard. Leave our elections alone!