

Submitter:

Nicole Alcyon

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Up until 2020 I would have said that a bill like this was unnecessary, but that election opened my eyes to how flawed mail-in ballots can be. We need an ID for many things - ensuring we can verify the person with an ID of a registered voter seems imperative these days. It is time for more accountability in that regard as I've seen a lot of doubt in the election, from the 2020 to the 2024 election - both Democrats and Republicans believing one of the other was stolen.

Since the onset of mail in voting, the state flipped Democrat and have stayed that way ever since despite me knowing a lot more prior shifting Republican or in favor of Republican candidates over the Democrat candidate.

Two other experiences inform my views on this:

- I had a chance conversation with a poll worker after the 2020 election, and she told me how lax the standards were for checking signatures on ballots were: basically, if there was any attempt at a signature they were told that to approve the ballot.

- I had a homeless friend use my address for his mail, and after he died I continued to receive fresh ballots for every election for two years, even though I dutifully marked them "Return to sender, deceased" every time. I finally had to go down to the county election office, and demand in person that they mark him as deceased. They did finally remove him from the voting rolls, but they said they never act on returned mail. I'm thinking that there are a lot of dead grandmothers voting in Oregon, despite the felony risk.

- I had many housemates over the years, and would get their ballot long after they left until they finally changed their address.

Finally, I read through a lot of these statements opposing this bill, and many oppose it because mail-in voting is so easy that there is greater participation. Participation is exactly the wrong metric to promote. Simply promoting participation means that you get the most people, with only the most superficial understanding of the issues and candidates, swayed by the most effective propaganda, to spend five minutes to fill out a ballot (actually, I can see why both parties want mail-in voting when put like that). Actual voting, where you take time off from work, or where you volunteer in the process (as the church ladies used to do prior to mail-in voting) is an investment of one's time, and when you make an investment of your time like that you're much more likely to get informed and think about your choices.

So, yes, it's time to the the convenience of mail in voting for the sake of ensuring our elections are as safe as can be.

Democrats would want this to if all of a sudden we started having a Republican governor and secretary of state and senators. But why would they want to change without any incentive? Meanwhile the rest of us question the legitimacy without ensuring every ballot received is from the registered voter claimed to be.

We should want our elections to be as safe and legit as possible. This is a step toward that at the expense of convenience. And I'm ok with that.