

Submitter:

Brendan Shamloo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am greatly concerned that this bill is even being considered. In what way does requiring votes be given in person benefit the citizens of Oregon? How, I ask you, would it be a good thing if hundreds of thousands of votes could go uncounted, all because those citizens only had a single day to vote, with no guarantee they'll have the time or the means to vote in person?

The ability to mail in ballots ensures that every voter gets a fair chance to weigh in on decisions that affect not only our state, but the entire nation, even the world as a whole. American leaders make decisions that affect hundreds of millions of people; restricting the ability to vote by any means makes it difficult or downright impossible for citizens to weigh in on these monumental decisions. I myself work overnight, and frequently have to work overtime to make ends meet, making it difficult for me to vote in person. For people who work during the day it's even more difficult, as they'd need to either take the day off (which is not guaranteed) or immediately rush to the ballots after work, at the same time as every other person who couldn't get the day off to vote. Then there are those with physical disabilities who can't make it to the ballots in the first place. Do their votes suddenly not matter because they can't cast their vote in person?

Making it harder for citizens to vote is not only undemocratic, it's downright tyrannical, and a slap in the face of what America is supposed to represent. To the legislators of the State of Oregon I say, if you truly value freedom and democracy, you'll cast this bill down before it ever has a chance of becoming law.