

April 1, 2025 - Letter in Support of Oregon SB210

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 210. For decades, I've watched Oregon grow and change, and I've always taken pride in our state's commitment to fair and accessible elections. However, recent events have shaken my confidence in our current vote-by-mail system, and I believe it's time for a return to in-person voting to restore trust and integrity in our electoral process.

I remember the days when voting meant going to the polls, seeing my neighbors, and feeling that shared sense of civic duty. It was a simple, transparent process—casting a ballot in person, knowing it was counted right then and there. Over the years, vote-by-mail became Oregon's hallmark, and I appreciated the convenience. But convenience cannot come at the cost of security. When I learned that our DMV mistakenly registered over 1,000 non-citizens to vote through the motor voter program, I couldn't help but question how many other errors might slip through a system that relies so heavily on mail and automation. SB210's move to in-person voting on Election Day would give us a chance to tighten up these vulnerabilities and ensure every vote cast is legitimate.

I also support the provision requiring mail-in ballots, if any remain, to be returned by Election Day rather than just postmarked. As an Oregonian who's mailed plenty of letters from rural post offices, I know how unpredictable delivery can be. A ballot postmarked on time but arriving late could still be counted under the current rules—how is that fair to those of us who follow the process diligently? And eliminating state-funded return envelopes makes sense too; if we're serious about voting, we can cover a stamp or, better yet, show up in person like we used to.

I've lived in Oregon nearly my entire life, over 65 years and I want Oregon to lead with an election system we can all trust. SB210 isn't about taking away access; it's about strengthening it with accountability. I urge the committee to pass this bill and bring us back to a voting process that reflects the integrity Oregonians deserve.

Sincerely,

James Lupoli

Buxton, OR