

Submitter:

Teresa Retzlaff

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I have lived in Oregon for 20 years, moving here from a state that had only in-person voting available. I want to express my support for Oregon's current vote-by-mail system in the loudest, strongest voice possible! Having participated in both systems, I can honestly say that Oregon's vote by mail system is so much better and efficient than vote-in-person. It is less burdensome for working people trying to fit voting into a busy work day, makes it easier for people with mobility issues, or young children to vote, there are no lines to stand in, and I can fill out my ballot without time pressure and be thoughtful about it. There are safeguarded options to drop the ballot off if I miss the mail in deadline (I always do) and it seems that the system is able to count ballots effectively and and return a timely result as it has never failed to do so in the 20 years I have been participating in elections here. I have also never heard about any issues of fraud or non-citizen voting in my county, and all reports that I read indicate that there are plenty of safeguards against those things happening throughout Oregon. This system works well, it makes it easy for all Oregonians to participate in voting, and our voter registration when getting your drivers license program makes it easy to be registered to vote, thus encouraging more Oregonians to participate in our democracy. The ONLY thing that I miss about voting in person is getting an 'I Voted' sticker that I can proudly wear all day on Election Day. I can only assume that it is these very things: high voter turnout and ease of voter registration that the people trying to overturn this system are afraid of and opposed to. I strongly urge our legislation to reject this shameful attempt to undermine citizen participation in our government and retain the excellent vote by mail system that Oregon currently uses. Thank you.