

Submitter: Kenden Curry
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 210. As a lifelong Oregonian, I take great pride in our state's leadership on expanding access to the ballot and protecting the democratic process. Oregon was the first state in the country to adopt universal vote-by-mail, and over the years, this system has proven to be secure, accessible, cost-effective, and widely supported by voters of all backgrounds and political affiliations.

Senate Bill 210 would radically undermine the very system that has earned Oregon national praise. By replacing vote-by-mail with in-person voting as the default, and imposing restrictive ID requirements, SB 210 erects unnecessary barriers to voting that will have a disproportionate impact on disabled voters, low-income individuals, elderly residents, rural communities, and working people with inflexible schedules. The current vote-by-mail system allows voters to take their time, research issues and candidates, and cast their ballots at their convenience — all without waiting in line, navigating transportation challenges, or taking time off work.

The proposed requirement that all ballots be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, rather than postmarked by that date, is another clear step toward voter suppression. It penalizes voters for postal delays entirely outside their control, and it contradicts the spirit of encouraging maximum voter participation. Ending the state's commitment to covering return postage adds yet another financial hurdle, however small, that compounds accessibility issues — especially for voters already on the margins.

There is simply no evidence to justify this overhaul. Claims of widespread fraud under our current system are unfounded. Oregon has a long and proud history of election integrity, with robust verification procedures and bipartisan oversight. Instead of improving on this success, SB 210 dismantles it.

In practice, this bill will lead to longer lines, fewer voters, and greater disenfranchisement. While it offers vote-by-mail as an option only if a voter applies at least 21 days in advance and verifies their identity, this is a significant departure from the simplicity and inclusiveness of our current process. Many voters — particularly those juggling work, caregiving, or health challenges — will be left behind.

Voting should be a right, not an obstacle course. Oregon's vote-by-mail system exemplifies a democracy that works for everyone. SB 210 would drag us backward

into a system that creates winners and losers based on privilege, geography, and ability. This is unacceptable.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 210 in its entirety. It is a threat to voter access, equity, and democratic participation in Oregon.