

Submitter: Karl Wiegers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I have lived in Oregon for 24 years, voting by mail in every election since November 2000. It's an excellent process. It is far more convenient than requiring everyone to vote in person on a single day. Not everyone can do that with their schedule or transportation restrictions. It is efficient, because voters don't have to travel and perhaps spend a long time in a line at a polling place. It is fair, because everyone has equal access to a voting opportunity, whereas there is now a lot of nationwide political maneuvering to reduce the number of available polling places for many voters. It yields better results, because voters get all the relevant information in advance, can study it at their leisure, and can think carefully about how they want to vote and even change their vote, rather than getting one chance to vote and perhaps making a mistake. It is secure, because of signature matching to ensure that only legally authorized voters can cast a ballot and because the public has no access to the vote tabulation machines.

The only reason to go back to in-person, one-day voting is to diminish the democratic process by making it harder and less fair for people to vote. This is a solution in search of a nonexistent problem. I strongly oppose bill SB 210.