

Submitter: Tracy Gibbs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the
Oregon Senate Rules Committee
Senate Bill 210
April 1st ,2025

Chairman Lieber, Vice-chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee:

I would like the committee to consider the opinions expressed in this testimony are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of my employers here in the great state of Oregon. My name is Tracy Gibbs. As a native Oregonian, coming from several generations of native Oregonians, participating in our local and national elections by voting by mail has always been a part of my life. To get rid of the vote-by-mail system is to get rid of something that is uniquely Oregon. We may have our differences ideologically, but our ability to vote is a fundamental right here in Oregon.

Voter turnout in Oregon has always been high. To vote for this bill is to vote for a problem that doesn't need to be fixed. In 2017, Republican Secretary of State Dennis Richardson vowed to aggressively root out fraudulent voting – and eventually prosecutors secured convictions of a mere 10 Oregon voters, most of whom voted in two states because of forgetfulness or poor health. Those 10 votes cast in Oregon's 2016 fall election represented a minuscule fraction of the 2.05 million votes cast. This 2017 fact-finding mission also concluded that Oregon has one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation. Supporting this argument, I will quote OPB. org:

When Portland firm DHM Research last asked about the issue in late 2018, 71% of voters statewide said they preferred to vote by mail. Just 18% of respondents said they wanted the option of voting in person, and 2% said they wanted Oregon to require voting exclusively in person. Political scientists say Oregon's vote-by-mail system contributes to its highest-in-the-nation rate of voter turnout, at 61.5% of eligible voters.

Senators Brock Smith and Thatcher may want to go back to a time where democracy works for some, but I do not. We will not go back. I urge the committee to oppose SB 210. A vote for Senate Bill 210 is a vote for voter suppression, intimidation, and the pervasive spread of misinformation. Thank you for reviewing this testimony.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gibbs
Portland, Oregon

<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/03/31/bill-to-end-vote-by-mail-slows-oregon-legislative-website-to-a-crawl/>