

Submitter:

Paul Cisterino

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

1) Passage of this bill would serve no useful purpose, because the incidence of election fraud that this bill purportedly seeks to eliminate has repeatedly been shown by many studies in many different jurisdictions to be negligible.

2) In Portland especially, with its very complicated ballots, in-person voting would lead to long lines and interminable waits. Many working people would not be able to spare the time this would require. Many elderly people do not have the stamina to wait for hours in line. Many single parents of limited means would be unable to get child care to enable them to spend half a day to vote in person. A recent surgery has left me with reduced control over my bladder, and waiting in line over an hour would not be possible for me.

3) Last November, it took the better part of a day for my wife and I to fill out our ballots. This was no problem with a mail-in ballot. We researched all the candidates in the comfort of our home. To fill out the ballot in-person would almost certainly require a voter to bring a printed ballot form into the voting booth with the choices marked, because the sheer number of choices is a challenge to remember, especially for the relatively obscure positions like Soil and Water Conservation District officials.

4) Even assuming everyone brings in a previously marked ballot, the sheer size of the Portland ballot makes filling out the official ballot a time-consuming action. I can visualize that the lines would move very slowly.

5) Given all these problems, it is not unlikely that a fair number of people would simply give up and not bother to vote. One has to wonder whether this is the true intent of the bill.

6) This bill is potentially the thin edge of a wedge. First mandate in-person voting only. The next step would be to reduce the number of polling stations, or to restrict the hours of operation. Proof of citizenship would come next. Please, let's not let this camel's nose into the tent.

7) Mail-in voting is working fine. We are the envy of people in other states that don't have it. Let's keep it!!