

Submitter:

Nick Caton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I continue to be disappointed in the individuals who profess to represent my region of Oregon in the House (Court Boice) and Senate (David Brock Smith). This ill-advised piece of legislation certainly adds to it. I have voted by mail for nearly three decades now, and have never seen a point in requiring individuals appear in person during a narrow window to have their voice be heard at the polls. By enabling citizens to complete their ballots at home it allows us to complete our duty at a time of our choosing, and with greater ability to look at all the options available to us and come to our own conclusions.

While I know that an unfortunate number of voters are happy to simply follow party lines or whatever they hear from family, social media, etc., but I for one take a great deal of care to research candidates and initiatives before making my selections. Something I would find much more difficult if required to make my decisions at a polling place, where I would have to take up space at a booth for an hour or more as I consider the options.

Then there is the matter of those that have less flexible working hours, are house-bound, or need other assistance that they wouldn't be able to reasonably get while being forced to stand in line at a polling place.

Overall this feels like a move to restrict voter options and rights under the guise of "doing the right thing" to "enhance security" of a process that has been regularly audited and lauded as a secure and functional. This legislation would guarantee reduce voter turnout as it would disillusion voters that either don't have the time, or the patience to go to polling locations where they are potentially exposed to harassment or intimidation. This has become especially problematic given how divisive the current political climate is, in particular where it comes to some individuals' stance on the need for citizens to take "securing" polling places into their own hands.

I strongly urge that this piece of legislation be tabled and not advanced to any floor discussion or votes.