

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which would make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method of voting and require voters to present government-issued identification when voting or requesting a ballot. This bill would significantly limit access to the ballot box, making it harder for many Oregonians—especially working families, seniors, people with disabilities, and rural voters—to exercise their right to vote.

Oregon has long been a national leader in voter accessibility with its vote-by-mail system, which has been in place for over two decades. Our system ensures secure, efficient, and accessible elections, allowing voters to participate without unnecessary barriers. By requiring in-person voting as the default method, this bill would disenfranchise voters who cannot take time off work, lack reliable transportation, or face other challenges that make in-person voting difficult. Additionally, requiring government-issued identification to obtain a ballot would disproportionately impact communities that face difficulties obtaining such documents, including low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Voting should be accessible to all eligible citizens, not just those who can navigate restrictive requirements. Oregon's vote-by-mail system increases participation and election security while reducing administrative costs. Instead of rolling back these proven benefits, we should focus on expanding access to democracy—not restricting it.

I urge you to reject this bill and uphold Oregon's commitment to fair, accessible, and secure elections.