

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

My family and my household take voting seriously. I was very proud to walk into my polling place after I turned 18 for my first election vote and run into my older cousin, whom volunteered to help run our polling place within the local elementary school. When Oregon first started using "Vote by Mail" I thought people would miss out on the camaraderie and community building that takes place when a voter physically travels to their polling place and votes in person. But after having several conversations with family, friends and neighbors I realized that the old way of voting in person had been effectively disenfranchising some voters and that was anathema to me. "Vote by Mail" allows my friend with a cane to vote from home instead of having to go up a flight of steps at their old polling place when the elevator is out of order. "Vote by Mail" allows my neighbor who cares for her ailing parents to vote without having to pay for a caretaker to come in to cover for her. "Vote by Mail" allowed my grandmother with vertigo to vote from home instead of having to stand/sit in line to vote. And "Vote by Mail" lets me read up on measures and candidates in real time as I'm voting, over a couple days if I choose. (I have come to appreciate that more and more as I age.)

"Vote by Mail" has shown itself to be a successful strategy to get more people exercising their right to vote. Let's continue to use it to get out the vote in Oregon!