

First of all, this bill is nothing more than an attempt to sow distrust in our elections. There is no widespread fraud. We should be able to agree on the definition of Voter Fraud. In order to have voter fraud, there needs to be a voter. There needs to be a vote cast. A blank ballot mailed is not fraud. BALLOTS ARE NOT VOTES. While issues with ballots being mailed to non-residents, deceased individuals or other things have happened, those are NOT voter fraud. Votes were not cast. Even in the DMV fiasco, the people that received the ballots are known and only possibly 3 people cast votes. Passing the bill will give validity to the misinformation and lies and might cause some people to have pause.

What will ensue if this bill is passed, is that Oregon will be bombarded with millions of dollars in ads spewing misinformation and flat out lies. Even if the voters vote to affirm vote-by-mail, the Republicans will continue to spew these lies. We have already seen how easily people will begin to believe lies and misinformation when bombarded with it.

We heard some of the mis-leading statements in the public testimony, including the lie that there were 8% more voters than registered voters in the 2020 election. There were 155 million votes cast vs 168 million registered voters. People can't even do simple math, and yet they will still throw out these falsehoods to confuse the narrative. There was also plenty of hand-wringing about security, and bloated register rolls, and other non factors. Not once did anyone present evidence of actual voter fraud, meaning evidence of an actual vote being cast illegally.

One thing this bill doesn't address, since it does want to maintain the ability for vote-by-mail by those who need it, is how does one present their ID to get a ballot? Since it is trying to maintain a vote-by-mail system, all of the same security requirements that are needed for our current vote-by-mail system must be maintained. So this would just be a money pit requiring everything that is currently in place, but yet adding in-person voting costs on top.

This is the real gotcha and proof that this isn't a serious proposal. This bill wouldn't actually fix anything and is just an attempt to have an election referendum on which to present lies to the Oregon public.

Work should continue to improve Oregon vote-by-mail. Possibly consider a second identifier, like a PIN, that would have to be on the envelope along with the signature. This would make it so that 2 points of information have to be provided and not just a forged signature. It again wouldn't be fool-proof, but would make it even more difficult to cast a fraudulent ballot.

Having an automated mechanism for removing people from voter rolls if their interactions with the state stop, eg. expired licenses and not voting, should also be considered. Automatic registration is great, but technology should also be used to keep the rolls clean so that money isn't wasted printing and mailing out materials to non-existent people.

Oregon elections are secure and there are many positives for voting by mail that should be continued:

- Vote when you want; don't need to take time off work
- Don't have to stand in line
- No voter intimidation
- Accessible to everyone; including those with disabilities
- No staff/volunteers needed to manage polling places
- No special equipment at polling places, including handicapped access
- Since there aren't polling places and equipment, less money needed to run elections
- All security and fraud mechanisms would still need to be in place for the military. Having 2 systems would be a waste of money.
- Vote by mail expands voter participation; eliminating it would lower voter participation.

This bill is akin to throwing out the baby with bathwater and isn't really addressing anything of value. It is just performative politics.

We can't let misinformation cause us to react. It gives legitimacy to the lies.

OPPOSE THIS BILL

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