

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

In-person voting remains the most secure, reliable, and community-oriented method of voting. While absentee and mail-in ballots would still remain to provide accessibility for some voters, in-person voting should be the basis of voting Oregon for a few reasons. First, in-person voting significantly reduces the risks of fraud, misdelivery, or lost ballots. Since voters must show up at designated polling locations, there is a direct verification of identity, reducing the chances of duplicate voting or errors. Second, ballots cast in person are counted immediately after polls close, leading to quicker election results. Mail-in ballots often require additional verification steps and can be delayed due to postal issues, prolonging uncertainty. A prolonged counting process can and has undermined public confidence, especially in Oregon. Furthermore, voting in person can provide a more private and secure environment, whereas mail in voting notably increases the likelihood of outside influence, whether from family members, employers, or third parties who may attempt to manipulate a voter's choice. At polling stations, voters can make independent decisions without outside interference. We know from the states that voting in person fosters a sense of unity and civic responsibility that drives more people to participate. Standing in line alongside fellow citizens reminds individuals of their role in elections. Regarding accessibility concerns, in-person voting accommodates a host of needs, such as early voting, extended hours, and assistance for those with disabilities. Voter ID laws provide the structure to enable absentee voters to still mail in as necessary. While alternative voting methods serve an important purpose, in-person voting remains the gold standard for election security, efficiency, and civic engagement. Encouraging people to show up at the polls strengthens our community by ensuring a fair, transparent, and participatory electoral process.