

Submitter:

Sarah Barbour

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

It's not a coincidence that Oregon has one of the highest voter turnouts in the country. Having moved here 14 years ago from a state that required people to vote in person, I remember the frustration of long lines (especially when accompanied by small children), rushed decisions in the voting booth, and the panic of thinking I might not make it to the polls on time.

In-person voting favors the wealthy, the healthy, and those privileged enough to have flexible schedules and reliable transportation. It actively discourages voting for many citizens, especially:

- Rural residents who may need to travel long distances to polling places
- Elderly and disabled voters who rely on mail-in ballots for accessibility
- Hourly wage-earners who cannot afford to take time off work to stand in long lines
- People who work non-traditional hours or multiple jobs that make it difficult to reach polling places during operating hours
- Parents and caregivers who may need to arrange child or elder care

These are the voters whose voices need to be heard most. These are the voters who will be most harmed by SB 210.

For decades, Oregon has been a national leader in secure, accessible voting through our mail-in ballot system. This approach has consistently delivered high voter participation while maintaining election integrity. SB 210 would create unnecessary barriers to democratic participation for no demonstrable benefit to election security.??I oppose SB 210 and encourage our representatives to oppose it as well.