

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As a lifelong PNWer in my 30s and most of that in Oregon, I have only ever known mail-in voting and I will fight tooth and nail to keep it. This method is not only convenient but allows me to be thorough and make informed choices in a way that in-person voting would prevent. In my household, it is our tradition to lay out our ballots, get out our computers, and research candidates and measures independently, then converse about our findings and make our own decisions before filling in our own ballots. It takes us several hours, and it is important to us that we can take that time. We then bike to our local ballot dropoff (a public safety building, a 5 minute bike away) to submit them together, but having the option of submitting it through the mail for free is a crucial piece of voting freedom.

Oregon has had successful, accurate, and efficient mail-in voting for decades, something that should be a mark of pride for our state. In person-only voting is a strategy for restricting votes, a practice which is, to say the least, undemocratic. Revoking mail-in voting would restrict the rights of Oregonians. In a time when human rights are being relentlessly attacked at the national level, Oregonian citizens and lawmakers alike should choose to preserve our liberty.