

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I, a lifelong Oregonian and mother raising my children here, OPPOSE this effort to make in-person voting the standard method in Oregon. Vote-by-mail has a long and proven history of providing safe, effective, and accessible voting to Oregonians. Requiring in-person voting as a standard would take us backward by creating a more chaotic voting process which would disenfranchise elderly, disabled, and working Oregonians whose right to vote should not be compromised.

The requirements for requesting a mailed ballot are extremely unclear - request to be made in person or on the internet, but ID verified by an elector. That language opens all sorts of opportunities for treating mail ballot requests as second-class voting, ESPECIALLY given that votes by mail have a different date requirement than in-person votes BY THREE WEEKS (21 DAYS) — an awful lot can happen in campaigns during the three weeks of October before the actual Election Day that may change a voter's mind, and to REQUIRE that mailed ballots be returned 21 days early disrupts a voter's ability to make an informed choice. This inequity in voting is unfair and unconscionable.

Please, on behalf of free and fair elections which honor the contributions of all Oregonians to the process, do not take Oregonians back to the lesser form of required in-person voting. The data doesn't lie. Fewer than 1% of mail ballots are rejected (MIT Election Science). Vote by mail does not favor one party over the other (Stanford University). And plenty of research over the years has shown that mail ballots are not subject to any more fraud than in-person voting (Brookings Institute at NYU, collated).