

Submitter: Diane Hammerstad
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am community member and have come to appreciate how the current practice of Vote by Mail serves our community. The primary benefit observed for myself and others is to have time to thoughtfully evaluate candidates and measures in the comfort of one's home. People have very busy lives – working, raising kids, taking care of obligations, maintaining their homes, and taking care of themselves. Some work more than one job or have odd work hours. Some are elderly and others disabled both, often reliant on others for transportation and errands. Vote by Mail allows for all types of living situations and persons; it encourages election participation of our broad electorate.

Another benefit of Vote by Mail that is overlooked is the ability of citizens to cast their vote sooner and not fall prey to the deluge of political messaging – often negative and salted with disinformation – that occurs in the final days leading up to the election date. People are saturated and exhausted well before election day. Having the freedom to cast your vote sooner than later is a welcomed relief.

Voting should not be a last-minute stressful rush to a voting booth where a person is suddenly looking at their ballot for the first time and feeling pressured to fill it out. Gone are those days! Vote by mail is plain and simple, it enables more citizens to vote. This makes for a stronger democracy. Thank you.