

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Mail-in voting for Oregon increases voting participation, which is critical to a functioning democracy.

Mail-in voting makes it much easier for me to vote. I am a mom of two kids at separate schools, and I also am self-employed. When I do not work, I do not get paid -- that is, I don't get paid time off, vacation days, or other benefits that would make it less financially impactful to take time off work during the week to vote in-person.

Voting via mail-in ballot allows me to carefully and thoughtfully research each candidate and measure. Without this time, I would be less informed and may not vote on everything. If I had to vote in person, I would not have all the information at my fingertips to be thoroughly informed on each vote.

I appreciate that voting my mail-in ballot allows me to introduce my children to the democratic process. They see me and my husband discussing different candidates and measures; me researching on my own; and me filling out my ballot. This instills in them the democratic pride in voting, and I believe it makes them more likely to be voters when they're old enough.

Finally, mail-in voting makes it easier for people to vote when they would not have an easy time getting to an in-person polling station. Oregon's voting methods allow people with a physical disability, neurodiverse people, people without easy transportation options, people with babies and young children, people who work jobs that don't include time off for voting or flexible working hours (especially low-wage jobs), and many more to exercise their rights.

Please do not limit mail-in voting.