

Submitter: Genesis Bishop

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Submitted to the Oregon State Legislature – Public Hearing

Honorable Chair, Members of the Committee,

My name is Genesis Bishop, and I am a resident of Klamath falls, Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 210, which seeks to establish in-person voting on Election Day as the standard method for conducting elections in our state.

This bill is a necessary step toward ensuring the integrity, security, and communal engagement of our electoral process. For too long, Oregon has relied heavily on mail-in voting, which, while convenient, introduces vulnerabilities that undermine public confidence in elections.

1. Enhancing Election Integrity and Security

In-person voting is the most secure method of casting a ballot. By requiring voters to present valid identification and physically submit their ballots, we significantly reduce the risks of fraud, ballot harvesting, and misplaced or delayed ballots. The security of our democratic process should be a priority, and SB 210 addresses these concerns in a responsible manner.

2. Restoring Public Confidence in Elections

Many Oregonians have expressed concerns about the transparency of our vote-by-mail system. Requiring ballots to be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day eliminates the uncertainty of post-election ballot counting and restores faith in timely and accurate results. When voters know that their ballots are counted immediately and securely, trust in the system is strengthened.

3. Fostering Civic Engagement

Election Day has historically been a day of community gathering and civic pride. By making in-person voting the standard, SB 210 reintroduces the tradition of neighbors coming together to participate in the democratic process. This communal aspect reinforces the importance of voting and strengthens civic engagement across all demographics.

4. Maintaining Accessibility

While prioritizing in-person voting, SB 210 still ensures that those who cannot physically attend the polls—such as military personnel, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities—have access to absentee ballots. This provision balances security with accessibility, ensuring that every eligible Oregonian retains the right to vote.

Conclusion

Senate Bill 210 is a commonsense reform that reinforces election integrity, restores voter confidence, and encourages civic engagement while maintaining reasonable accommodations for those in need. I urge this committee to support SB 210 and take this critical step toward strengthening Oregon's democratic process.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Genesis Bishop