

Re: Testimony in support of SB210

Date: March 31, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Rules

In the 1980s, vote by mail was a novel idea and Oregonians were proud that, in 2000, Oregon was the first state in the US to conduct elections exclusively by mail. It was heralded as an easy, convenient way for more people to vote. However, due to the lack of due diligence, legislative actions, and technology advances, some of the processes to deliver vote by mail have severely jeopardized the integrity and security of our voting system to the extent where it is now time to return to voting in person.

Vote by mail requires a clean and accurate voter registry. That requires regular and detailed scrubbing of the voters to eliminate people who have died or registered in another state due to an out of state move. This is not happening.

The DMV's job is to issue driver's licenses. In 2016, motor voter legislation passed to automatically register people to vote when they apply for an original, renewal, or replacement license, permit, or ID card at the DMV. In 2019, driver's license no longer required citizenship, yet the motor voter process does, creating a system susceptible to errors as evidenced by the hundreds of non-citizens who presented foreign documents that were used as proxies for citizenship. Even with more scrutiny, the different requirements of getting a driver's license and registering to vote introduces the opportunity for error and fraud.

Vote by mail requires a secure chain of custody for ballots. Ballots can be placed in drop boxes, harvested, or mailed, all which have chain of custody security issues. And, once delivered to the county election office, the voting machines are online and susceptible to hacking.

Vote by mail allows ballots to be postmarked by Election Day and received within 7 days to be counted. This unnecessary delay prolongs election results.

It's time to restore secure and transparent elections in Oregon: in person voting with a picture ID that verifies US citizenship; in precinct voting with efficient ballot counting by hand.

Sincerely,

Melissa Laird

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