

Submitter: Philip Barish
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
Philip Barish

Hello,

As a resident of Multnomah County and father I am reaching out to express my concern about SB 210. Mail in voting has been an effective method to increase voter engagement and enable those that would struggle to vote in person to do so. The most recent election ballot was extensive and complicated. The ability to vote at home enabled me to take my time with the ballot, thoroughly research candidates positions and vote accordingly. If I had not been afforded the opportunity to vote at home it is unlikely I would have researched the candidates as deeply as I did, and as a consequence likely would have left portions of my ballot empty.

There are many who do not have the ability to vote in person, whether due to disability, commitments, or other reasons. If the US is not going to declare voting day a national holiday, vote by mail is the only option that makes sense nationwide. Declare a holiday or do not change how voting has been done successfully in Oregon for as long as I have lived here. Shouldn't we as a nation aspire to have everyone vote? SB 210 will take voter engagement in the opposite direction.

Concerned citizen,
Philip Barish