

Submitter: Alisha Overstreet
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

My name is Alisha Overstreet. I am submitting testimony in response to SB210. While I am neither strongly opposed to nor strongly in favor of in-person voting, I wanted to highlight a few concerns that do come to mind.

1) Section 2 (1)(a) – ensure that the number of voting booths are proportionate to population size and spread across districts to reduce likelihood of disenfranchising low-income voters, and voters who have historically experienced voter disenfranchisement (including certain federally protected populations under various civil rights acts).

2) When requiring Oregonians to register to vote in-person, consider utilizing videoconferencing for verification purposes. This will increase accessibility for our elders, parents with small children, and disabled Oregonians to meet the visual requirement of verification. Videoconference platforms such as Zoom for Government and WebX are already used by Oregon state agencies and municipalities for various reasons.

3) I encourage expanding the use of early voting to provide equal access to voting across socioeconomic sectors, career types, the elderly, and disability, for instance. Early voting is utilized by both major parties, as at least one source (below) demonstrates. Republicans and Democrats utilize early voting; and during the 2024 election, early voting by Republicans has been suggested to have contributed to the major win Pennsylvania.

Even Scott Pressler, the founder of Early Vote Action, suggested that voting early is an effective strategy to win elections.

(1) <https://earlyvoteaction.com/about/>

(2) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/early-voting-trump-harris-democrats-republican-map-chart-b2637628.html>

I have had several concerns with automatic voter registration, not necessarily due to the potential of fraud (which is a topic I have not followed closely enough to form an informed opinion), but because I strongly believe it is a form of compelled speech. A person ought to choose whether they want to register to vote based on their own desire to do so, not because lawmakers made this decision for them.

Thank you, and I hope you consider some of the above-mentioned recommendations as this bill moves forward.

Alisha Overstreet, M.S. Forensic Psychology