

Submitter: Marcella Patrick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I'm sending this today to strongly oppose making in-person voting on the day of the election standard process. In the United States of America, there are several ways in which we limit access to voting that other countries without universal mail-in ballots do not. We do not have automatic voter registration - this means anyone who forgets it doesn't have the time to register does not get to vote. We do not issue a standardized government ID to all legal citizens - that means requiring voter ID forces people to use something like a driver's license or military ID. Well what if I don't drive, or join the military? This is just an attempt to suppress the votes of people who don't drive or join the military (e.g., liberals who live in walkable neighborhoods and cities like Portland). Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the days of the general election and the midterms are not national holidays. This means that if your 4 polls in the entire county are open until 6pm, and you get off work at 5pm and have to drive an hour to the nearest poll, you aren't voting (not to mention the long line). People of greater wealth and opportunities, who can take the day off or have more flexibility in their work will be just fine. As for the rest of us, we miss out on representation.

When I lived in Utah, universal mail-in ballots were widespread and very popular. This was the first time in my life I was able to vote in EVERY election, not just for president. I got to participate in our beautiful democracy more than I ever had before. And when I moved to Oregon, I was delighted to see this continue. I am happy to vote for whoever is the best candidate, and for every ballot initiative, in every election. If we are constrained to 1 day, the voices of millions will be suppressed.