

March 29th, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Rules
SUBJECT: Oppose SB 210

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Britney VanCitters, and I live in the Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon while limiting vote-by-mail options and imposing stringent identification requirements. I believe this bill undermines the accessibility and inclusivity that have been the hallmarks of Oregon's electoral system for decades.

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing a universal vote-by-mail system, which has significantly increased voter participation and streamlined the electoral process. This system allows voters to receive and return their ballots by mail, providing ample time to consider their choices and participate in elections without the constraints of a single Election Day. The success of this approach has positioned Oregon as a national leader in promoting accessible and secure voting practices.

Voting by mail is safe and secure. Our state has policies and processes in place to ensure that only eligible citizens cast votes, and to identify and prevent attempts at voter fraud. SB 210 is predicated on unfounded claims of voter fraud and election interference. This bill is also short-sighted in its implementation. Oregon has voted by mail for 30 years, and that's the infrastructure our election officials have to work with. Mandating in-person only voting requires vastly more infrastructure that we currently do not have, including additional polling places and more election workers in more locations.

In a time where resources are limited-- we're facing a budget shortfall from lack of federal funding-- we surely should not be spending precious dollars on unnecessary election overhauls. This bill seeks to solve a problem that does not exist; to fix a system that is not broken. In fact, Oregon serves as a model for the rest of the country.

SB 210 represents a significant step backward for voting accessibility in Oregon. By dismantling the proven vote-by-mail system and imposing restrictive measures, this legislation threatens to disenfranchise countless voters and erode the inclusive democracy that Oregonians have long championed. I urge you to oppose SB 210 and to continue supporting policies that make voting as accessible and equitable as possible for all citizens.

Thank you,
Britney VanCitters
SE Portland, 97266