

Submitter: Madeleine Limon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Having the ability to vote by mail makes voting far more accessible to the regular person, increases voter diversity, increases voter participation, and streamlines the election process. I remember being in college, knowing that if I didn't have a vote by mail ballot, I wouldn't be voting in that election, be it local, state, or federal because I would be in class, doing homework, doing extracurriculars, or just not having the energy to get to an in person voting site, drained from school. I remember looking at social media, at the long lines of people who would take the day off of work to stand in voting lines for hours and hours on end, knowing that that form of voting would not be accessible or possible for millions of disabled voters, voters without childcare, elderly voters, voters who couldn't take the day off of work or school, voters who had to go to healthcare appointments on election day. And, as a young person in my 20s, I know that myself and many of my peers in Gen Z and the up and coming Gen Alpha would not be voting if it was not made as convenient and accessible as possible. By limiting vote by mail, by forcing in person voting, and by imposing stringent identification requirements for voters, you move to limit the voice of people by decreasing the diversity of voices heard. By supporting SB 210, you move to reject the youth vote, reject the disabled vote, reject the vote of color, reject the working class vote, reject the elderly vote, reject the queer vote, reject the vote of the common person, which is what our democracy is supposedly based on: working for the common person, working for all people.

And I know that the people who wrote SB 210 want a homogenized, sanitized, white, WASP-y, heterosexual, cisgender, upper class, middle aged, non-disabled voter pool so that their agenda can move forward with ease. However, it is offensive that you, as an elected official, want that and want to reject a core tenant of your job: working for all people.