

Submitter: Brandon Kester
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

This bill would significantly hinder the ability of many Oregonians to vote. By limiting voting to a single day, there will be fewer opportunities for a working person to register their vote. Many working Oregonians find it difficult to take time out of our busy schedules to run quick errands during the day. By restricting voting to a single day, it will guarantee long lines and missed working hours.

This bill would also make exercising our votes more difficult, particularly for the elderly and disabled. The bill would require them to not only visit a physical polling place, but would also require them to retain a valid physical ID, which is a burden on those who do not need or want a driver's license.

Finally, this bill would make it harder for rural voters. The bill references ORS 254.474 as the guideline for County Clerks regarding voting booth locations:

- > (1) At each primary election and general election, the county clerk shall maintain voting booths in the county as follows:
 - > (a) In each county with 35,000 or more electors in the county, the county clerk shall maintain a number of voting booths equal to at least one voting booth for every 20,000 electors in the county; and
 - > (b) In each county with fewer than 35,000 electors in the county, the county clerk shall maintain at least one voting booth.

As best I can tell from public data, there are somewhere between 18 and 20 counties with fewer than 35,000 eligible voters. Some of those counties are also very sparsely populated. Those voters would have to make extra time to drive to a polling place that is further away.

All of these factors would certainly reduce our high voter turnout, which is one of the highest in the nation. I can't help but wonder if reducing voter turnout is the actual point of this bill, though.