

Submitter: Karen Chirre
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am writing to advocate for Oregon Senate Bill 210, which proposes making in-person voting mandatory during elections. This policy is essential not only for ensuring the integrity of our electoral process but also for enhancing voter accountability.

First and foremost, in-person voting promotes transparency. When voters cast their ballots at polling stations, it allows for a more observable and verifiable process. This visibility helps to deter potential fraud and ensures that each vote is counted accurately. As we have seen in recent years, the trust in our electoral system is paramount, and in-person voting can significantly bolster that trust.

Moreover, mandatory in-person voting encourages civic engagement. Elections are a cornerstone of our democracy, and when individuals make a concerted effort to participate, it fosters a sense of community and responsibility. By requiring voters to show up in person, we can invigorate the democratic process, encouraging not only participation but also informed voting. Voters are more likely to engage with local issues and candidates when they take the time to step into the voting booth.

In addition, in-person voting provides an opportunity for education and assistance. Polling places can offer resources and support for individuals who may have questions or need help understanding the voting process. This direct interaction can lead to a more informed electorate, which is crucial for the health of our democracy.

While we acknowledge the importance of accessibility, we can also implement measures to accommodate individuals who may face challenges in voting in person. This could include expanding early voting hours, providing transportation options, and ensuring that polling places are accessible to all.

In conclusion, supporting Oregon Senate Bill 210 and making in-person voting mandatory is a vital step toward enhancing the integrity, accountability, and overall engagement in our electoral process. It is our duty to protect the sanctity of our democracy and to encourage active participation from all citizens. I urge you to consider this proposal seriously and to take action that will benefit our community and our nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Chirre
Portland Resident and Business Owner