

Submitter: Strawberry Nevill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I strongly oppose this measure.

Oregon vote-by-mail is secure. It makes exercising the right to vote simple and convenient. People don't have to take off work, drive a long way to get to a poll, stand in long poll lines, or worry about physical accessibility at the polls. Every experience I've had with vote by mail--including going in to get a replacement ballot--has been convenient and secure.

The system proposed here is so much more complex, with many more opportunities for failure. That's going to reduce voter turnout.

Requiring people to go to the polls will reduce turnout too, especially among people who find it more difficult to get to polls: people in rural communities, parents with young kids, people who work long hours and/or low-wage jobs with little autonomy, elderly voters who are less mobile, and people with disabilities.

It's also going to cost a huge amount of money that could be better spent on other things. Staffing polls, renting space--just the outlay of tax dollars is a waste. To say nothing of wasted productivity while people who could be working stand in line or driving long distances to get to a polling place.

Why on earth would we replace our simple, secure, convenient voting process with this? If Republicans want more votes, they should win them honestly, not try to keep people from the polls.