

Submitter: Michael Voyles
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

To start, I think it's important to make it known that I consider myself an advocate for the furtherance of democracy and democratic principles. I believe that civic engagement and participation are the bedrock of a healthy government. We know that allowing for mail in ballots increases participation in our electoral processes because it allows a level of convenience and flexibility that in person voting simply cannot. There is plenty of information available which indicates that in person only voting causes lower turnout period. We also know through that there has been a systematic whittling away of voting rights in this country, which has culminated in the 2024 election where it has been reported that nearly 4.6 million voters were purged from voter rolls all over America. Any democratically elected official who advocates for measures that would decrease voter participation is inherently antidemocratic, hypocritical, and does dishonor to their position. You'll notice that conservatives exclusively wage an endless battle against measures which simplify the process. Measures, that are widely accepted in other healthier democracies around the world that we (up until very recently) consider our closest allies and partners. They know that the more access people have to vote, the harder it is to control the outcome. I know they'll say they're protecting the ballots from illegal activity, but they have zero evidence that isn't manufactured and tailored to show exactly that. The most recent attempt at the new Jim Crow propaganda, 2000 mules is a flimsy, theatrical, laughable attempt at weaving a narrative that thousands of POC were harvesting and stuffing ballot boxes, which of course has absolutely no merit. It is a Trojan horse to allow the wolf to guard the henhouse of the American voter system. Audits have shown that in states like Oregon there is very little evidence of any fraud that isn't accidental in nature. In fact, many recent national audits in a variety of different types of districts have turned out evidence of fraud in support of conservative candidates. Simply put the idea that there is mass voter fraud and corruption is something that exists only in the heads of those who seek to gain from the suppression. They'd like for us to believe it, and they think if they keep saying it over and over we'll just give up and believe it. Well I won't. And I hope you won't either. I personally view this plot as extremely sinister, and I believe that they are fully aware and intentional with their attempts to silence democracy. All the while accusing citizens who try to bring democracy to the masses of being "un-American". It is cynical, disturbing, and dangerous activity, to say the least. If there was some type of evidence of wrongdoing on a large scale they would've shown it a long time ago, and we'd all agree that some type of safeguard was necessary. As it stands, that is not, and has not ever been the case, except for through measures like voter purging, exclusively in person voting, intimidation, and gerrymandering, which of course the right advocates and uses to their great benefit regularly. Anyways. I digress. Please, do whatever we

can to ensure that we do not allow any restrictions to our revered, beloved, and nationally envied voting system. The future of our democratic republic is at stake here and Oregon can and should be principled in its democratic values.

Thank you.

Peace, love, and justice.

Michael Voyles