

Testimony in Support of Oregon Senate Bill 210

Submitted by Victoria Marshall, Oregon Resident

March 29, 2025

Members of the Oregon State Senate,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 210, which would establish in-person voting on Election Day as the standard voting method in Oregon. As a proud Oregon resident, I believe this legislation strengthens our democratic process by prioritizing transparency, security, and civic engagement, while ensuring that every Oregonian's voice is heard in a fair and efficient manner.

First and foremost, in-person voting on Election Day offers unmatched transparency and accountability. When voters cast their ballots at polling stations, election officials can directly oversee the process, reducing the potential for errors or concerns about ballot integrity that arise with 100% vote by mail. These include ballots mailed long after the person has moved, ballots mailed to hotel rooms, and ballots mailed to undeliverable/non-existent addresses.

Oregon has a long history of innovation in voting, but returning to the time-honored tradition of in-person voting as the standard would reinforce public trust in our elections at a time when confidence in government institutions is more important than ever.

Additionally, SB 210 would enhance election security. In-person voting allows for real-time verification of voter identity and eligibility, minimizing risks associated with lost or mishandled ballots. While I appreciate mail-in voting can be considered convenient, the physical act of voting in person, surrounded by fellow citizens, ensures a direct and

secure connection between the voter and their ballot. This bill provides a clear framework to safeguard that connection.

Beyond security and transparency, making Election Day the standard voting method fosters a sense of community and shared purpose. Voting in person on a designated day transforms an individual act into a collective celebration of democracy. It encourages Oregonians to come together, engage in civic discourse, and take pride in our participatory system. While accommodations should remain available for those unable to vote in person due to military service, work, or attending school out of state, establishing this as the default would rekindle the communal spirit of Election Day.

Critics may argue that this shift reduces convenience, but I believe the benefits outweigh any minor inconveniences. Oregonians will make it work. Polling locations can be made accessible, lines can be managed efficiently, and resources can be allocated to ensure that no one is disenfranchised. SB 210 is an opportunity to balance accessibility with the integrity and unity that in-person voting brings.

Senate Bill 210 is a forward-thinking measure that honors Oregon's commitment to fair and credible elections. I urge you to pass this legislation and make in-person voting on Election Day the standard once again. Let's strengthen Oregon for Oregonians with clear, reliable, and unifying elections. We must restore trust in our most fundamental right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Victoria Marshall
Oregon Resident