

Submitter: Michelle Mullen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I am opposed to SB 210 being considered for the Oregon voting system. Voting by mail is an economical, efficient, and accessible system that's worked and provided Oregon voters with the convenience of carrying out this tradition from home. Households can share the importance of voting with children who can learn the importance of taking part in an election by witnessing parents filling out ballots, researching candidates, and talking about learning points of candidates. This education may happen second-hand, but as someone who grew up in another state without vote-by-mail, I never got to see firsthand the value of seeing someone debate candidates and make these vital decisions for the community. In turn, I didn't bother registering to vote until my mid-twenties, as I didn't see this part of my parents' history.

Elderly and mobility-challenged voters might not have the capacity to vote in person, and their voices matter! This also impacts voters who are ill or injured, and voters without a car who might not be able to take transit because they're caretakers. Not to mention people trying to fit in voting on a work day or between caretaking shifts, not always able to wait in long voting lines. Put simply, creating the barrier of appearing in person to vote is going to create obstacles for many members of the population.

When I drop off my ballot, I believe it will reach the correct destination, and we currently have ways to track our ballots online and ensure it was received. There's something very refreshing about this little personal decision made at home then winding its way into the future of the city and how things are shaped. I don't have the same confidence in voting machines. With so many stories of hacking and electronic manipulation, it feels safer to trust paper and pen, and mailed ballots.

I don't want to see the future of Oregon voting given over to polling places. Keeping it private, personal, and done from home should be the tradition our children will be carrying out decades from now.