

Hello. My name is Barbara Ross and I am a native Oregonian who has lived in this beautiful state my entire life. I am very proud of many firsts for Oregon and one of them is our tradition of mail-in balloting. Having lived in rural Eastern Oregon as well as in the Willamette Valley, I appreciate the integrity and the convenience of mail-in balloting. Whether as a stay-at-home mom with preschoolers, a busy career person who worked out-of-town, or most recently an active retired person who enjoys traveling, I've always known I can vote at a time that works for me. I also appreciate that mail-in balloting gives me the opportunity to vote responsibly. No matter how complicated life is, I can find time to spread all of the information out on my kitchen table, pour myself a cup of tea, read through the voter's guides and the materials that were left at my door or delivered to my mailbox, and make thoughtful decisions without feeling rushed.

I also believe that mail-in ballot is safe. Oregon has one of the highest rates of voter participation in the nation because we make it convenient for people to vote. While there have been isolated issues relating to voter fraud, the overall number is extremely low. And because mail-in ballot tracking mechanisms are strong, issues can be found and dealt with appropriately without putting up unnecessary barriers that make it difficult for the majority of legally eligible voters to cast their votes. Every legitimate voter has the right to cast a vote and mail-in balloting helps to make that possible.

Finally, I believe that mail-in balloting is cost-effective. I am old enough to remember when we had to vote in person on Election Day. The amount of work that it took to plan for and set up the polling places, the sheer expense of the booths themselves and all of the voting machines, and the number of paid and volunteer workers that it took to make it all happen was mind-boggling. As a senior citizen, I would not be happy to go back to the days of trying to find a parking spot at a busy school, standing in line in the rain to get in, worrying about whether or not my name was going to be on the list once I got there, and then feeling stressed as to using the machines and/or holding up the line of people behind me. Mail-in balloting has served Oregonians well for years. Please don't change what is working so well!