

Submitter: Connie Peterson
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

In June of 1998, supporters of expanding Vote By Mail (VBM) used the initiative to put the issue on the November general election ballot. No paid signature gatherers were used to put the measure on the ballot – a first since 1994. On November 3, 1998, Oregon voters resoundingly approved the expansion of VBM to primary and general elections by a vote of 757,204 to 334,021. Vote By Mail has proved to increase voter turnout, something everyone in a representative republic should applaud.

All registered voters in Oregon are automatically mailed an official ballot and a ballot return envelope with prepaid postage. Voting by mail leaves a paper trail — a critical feature for exposing fraud. As an active citizen, I have availed myself of training to do so, and have served as an election observer. Vote By Mail is a secure process, and I strongly believe Oregon should be proud of our heritage in making voting easier for all registered voters in our State, and resolutely continue our efforts to enfranchise as many people as possible to participate in democracy!.

Proponents of this bill may make a lot of noise about the error discovered last year that resulted in a relative handful of non-citizens having been registered to vote through the DMV, but I am actually heartened by the fact safeguards are in place so that this error was discovered and promptly rectified.

Oregon is very fortunate to have over four decades of experience administering our elections with Vote By Mail. It has allowed us to expand access to the ballot and ensure election integrity.

I urge you to reject any effort to disrupt Oregon Vote By Mail. Oregon can lead the nation in voter turnout and ensure that every Oregonians voice is heard.

Thank you.