

Submitter: Steven Ely
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

My name is Steve Ely, and I'm retired. I've lived here my whole life, voted in every election since I turned 18, and always trusted our system. But lately, that trust has worn thin, and I'm here to tell you why I support SB 210.

A few years ago, I mailed my ballot like always. Tracked it online, too. Somewhere between my mailbox and the county clerk, it disappeared. I called, frustrated, and got a shrug—"It happens." That's not good enough. Last election, we waited weeks for results, with rumors of lost ballots and double votes swirling. I don't know what's true, but the uncertainty kills me. Voting's supposed to feel solid, not like a guess.

SB 210 fixes that. It gets rid of mail-in voting for most of us and brings back in-person voting on Election Day. You show your ID, cast your vote, and it's done. No lost mail, no delays—just certainty. I already show my ID for everyday stuff: buying a drink, picking up a package. Why not for something as big as voting? Oregon offers free IDs anyway—it's not a burden, it's a safeguard.

Now, I get the exceptions, and I'm glad they're there. My nephew's in the Army, stationed overseas—he needs mail-in voting. Same for folks with out-of-state addresses. SB 210 keeps that for them, which is fair. But for those of us here? We can show up. It's not about making it harder; it's about making it clearer.

I've heard the arguments—some say it's restrictive. But to me, it's the opposite. Knowing my vote's counted, not misplaced or questioned, frees me to trust the process again. Election Day should be a moment, not a month-long mess. SB 210 gives us that: a secure, simple way to have our say. I'm tired of wondering if my voice matters. This bill makes sure it does.

Thank you for listening.