

Submitter: Carly Fredericks  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I moved to Oregon from a state where voting by mail was challenging, it was hard to find out about candidates on my ballot, measures I was supposed to be voting for and local officials who would have a direct impact on me, my family and my neighbors. When I moved to Oregon and received my first ballot in the mail (and voter's pamphlet, but I hope we can all agree that those shouldn't be going anywhere), I breathed a very heavy sigh of relief. THIS was what democracy was supposed to feel like. I make it a point to be informed now, and I feel my community is all the better for it.

Since moving to Oregon in 2020, I have voted in more elections than the rest of my voting-eligible life combined. And that's because of mail-in ballots. I had never in my life voted in a local election because I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN THEY WERE. My county did the best they could, but I wasn't informed, and frankly, it felt like too much work to seek out the information I needed. Since moving here, I've voted in nearly every single one that has come to my mailbox.

Please don't get rid of mail in ballots. It's allowed me and my family to feel more invested in our community, that we have a say in what happens next. I can't express my gratitude for the feelings of agency and civic duty that I have gained from the State of Oregon through this part of our state's democratic process, and it is my great hope that this process will be upheld.

Sincerely,  
Carly Fredericks