

Submitter: Zach Larkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Oregon has one of the highest rates of voter engagement in the nation because of the vote-by-mail system. This process produces greater civic participation, more representative democratic governance, and more accountability of public officials. These are vital qualities to enshrine and protect. During the pandemic, countless voters would not have been able to participate in the election if not for vote by mail due to age, infirmity, immunocompromised status, or other considerations. Forcing Oregon voters to show up in person would disenfranchise these and other communities, stifle public participation in our democracy, and insulate the Oregon government from its constituents. These are unacceptable outcomes. The legislature must reject this anti-democratic abrogation of a cherished right, particularly as federal overreach encroaches on state sovereignty.