

Submitter: James Pamplona  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

#### Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 210

Chair and members of the committee, I oppose SB 210, which would replace Oregon's successful vote-by-mail system with in-person voting.

Oregon has led the nation in voting accessibility since 1998 when voters approved Ballot Measure 60. Our system has become a model other states emulate and has evolved through careful evaluation over decades.

Our mail voting system has proven secure with virtually no evidence of systematic fraud. Each ballot envelope contains a unique barcode and requires signature verification against voter registration records. Multiple studies confirm voter fraud in Oregon remains exceedingly rare.

Oregon consistently ranks among states with highest voter turnout - 78.5% in the 2020 general election. Vote-by-mail removes barriers for:

- Working parents balancing job and family responsibilities
- Rural Oregonians far from polling places
- People with disabilities
- Elderly and medically vulnerable voters

SB 210 would create unnecessary hurdles, particularly with its restrictive provision that mail ballots would only be available to those who request them 21 days before the election and can prove they're "unable to vote in person."

The bill's fiscal impact remains unspecified but would be substantial. Counties would need to:

- Establish and staff polling locations statewide
- Acquire voting machines and equipment
- Recruit, train, and pay poll workers
- Develop security protocols
- Fund voter education about the change

The photo ID requirement would disenfranchise eligible voters without the specific forms listed (Oregon driver license, state ID, passport, or military ID), including seniors who no longer drive, low-income residents, and those who rely on public transportation.

SB 210 also reverses recent improvements by:

- Repealing state-paid postage on ballot envelopes
- Eliminating the seven-day grace period for postmarked ballots
- Removing alternatives to secrecy envelopes

Vote-by-mail allows voters to research candidates and measures at home, promoting more informed decisions than those made quickly in voting booths.

SB 210 proposes to fix a system that isn't broken. Oregon's vote-by-mail system provides secure, accessible elections with high participation rates. The proposed changes would create barriers, impose significant costs, and potentially reduce voter participation.

I urge rejection of SB 210 to continue Oregon's tradition of accessible voting for all eligible citizens.

Thank you,

James Pamplona