

Submitter: Rene Brandon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am strongly opposed to changing Oregon's voting process for the following reasons:

FIRST, the cost of setting up polling places and staffing those sites would be enormous. Oregon needs to focus funding on housing, child care, and health care for its citizens.

SECOND, It would create unnecessary hardships. In person voting would create barriers for seniors, for people experiencing disabilities, for people lacking transportation. It would lead to voter suppression.

THIRD, and I say this as an independent voter, with no party affiliation: the voices demanding in person voting in Oregon sound the same as those expressing suspicion about voting machines being manipulated in other states. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose in a democratic society.

FOURTH, in person voting would be going backwards. We need to become more innovative just like we have with very critical services like banking and other financial services.

AND I WILL CLOSE WITH MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

When I got married, I changed my name and my voter registration as well. At the next election, I was contacted by Jackson County Elections Office because my signature on my voter's registration card, when I was first getting used to writing a new last name, didn't match my ballot signature a year later. I was required to come into the office to verify my identity. That tells me all I need to know about mail in voting in Oregon.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to share today and encourage you to keep mail in voting in Oregon as the fair and sensible choice, until we can innovate with electronic strategies.