

Submitter:

Staci Stein

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Vote by Mail serves our citizens. Folks are given more time to thoughtfully evaluate candidates and measures. Not everyone has the opportunity to get to a voting booth on election day due to various reasons— working, raising kids, transportation issues, taking care of obligations, taking care of their elders, etc. Some people work more than one job or have odd work hours. Some are elderly, disabled, or both, often reliant on others for transportation and errands. Vote by Mail allows for all types of living situations and persons; it encourages election participation of our broad electorate. Voting by mail allows citizens to cast their vote sooner and not fall prey to the deluge of political messaging – often negative and salted with disinformation – that occurs in the final days leading up to the election date. Having the freedom to cast your vote sooner than later is a welcomed relief. Voting should not be a last-minute stressful rush to a voting booth where a person is suddenly looking at their ballot for the first time and feeling pressured to fill it out. Voting on an election day within a narrow window of time does not serve our people; it serves only those who want to constrain voting to a narrow-privileged population – those who have the luxury of time, freedom from work, and access to transportation. We must protect Vote by Mail so that we have greater participation and thoughtful voting by all of our eligible voters. Thank you.