



OREGON STATE SENATE

The version of this bill passed by the Majority party is ripe for election fraud. The Minority report would have fixed the problems present in the base bill and would have added extra protections against our vote by mail system being abused. To add to the problems with this bill, the Urban Democrats once again paraded their privilege over their rural counter parts. While our mail may take a couple days to get postmarked as a lot of it gets stamped when it gets up to Portland, theirs is often stamped the same day. Now, a legally cast ballot in Brookings on election day may not be counted because it will not be postmarked for another day or maybe two up in Portland. This bill has just muddied the waters on when people can submit their ballots safely.

The Constitution of the State of Oregon clearly states that “The deliberations of each house, of committees of each house or joint committees and of committees of the whole, shall be open...” This provision was put in place to ensure accountability and transparency to the people of the state that their Legislature was working in their best interest. The virtual format that is being used does not provide for an honest, open, and transparent discussion on the matters of this state.

We are seeing just how discriminatory these virtual sessions can be! The Majority Party has created a system that if you cannot afford internet you cannot be a part of the discussions. This “Pay to Play” approach is NOT the Oregon way. Between this and the heartbreaking examples of the elder and economically depressed members in our society struggling and getting frustrated over their challenges navigating this virtual environment, it cannot honestly be said that we are doing the peoples work.

The “People’s Work” should be considered an essential service and there for accessible in person. Because the people are still being denied their constitutional right to participate and lobby their legislature in an open manner, which might have brought to light some of the voter fraud concerns, I voted no.