House Committee on Elections
Chair, Rep. Pat Proctor
Hearing: January 26, 2023
Jae Moyer, Mainstream Coalition, jae@mainstreamcoalition.org
Verbal testimony, WebEx

Position – OPPOSE HB 2056; Requiring all advanced voting ballots be returned by 7 p.m. on election day.

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Mainstream Coalition opposes HB 2056, requiring all advanced voting ballots be returned by 7 p.m. on election day.

Voting by mail is a safe and effective way for Kansans to cast their ballot. In the 2022 elections, 41% of Kansans voted by mail. In 2020, 459,229 individuals returned advance by mail ballots. Over 32,000 of those ballots were received within the current 3 day voter protection period that this bill proposes to remove. There is no evidence that ballots were cast illegally, incorrectly, or with intent to cause fraud.

There are infinite reasons why a ballot postmarked on or before election day may not be received by 7:00 pm on election day. You can easily imagine a scenario where a post office may have unforeseen delays. This bill would throw that ballot out, even though the voter is in no way at fault. Additionally, removing the 3-day voter protection period would create a double standard that disenfranchises mail ballot voters and favors individuals who vote in-person on Election Day.

There is no credible evidence that accepting mail ballots after Election Day leads to fraud or security concerns. In fact, we have heard repeatedly from the Secretary of State as well as a number of County Election Officials that Kansas elections are, in fact, secure. Kansans deserve the right to cast their ballot safely without unnecessary state government interference. **We urge you to please oppose HB 2056.**

Thank you,

Jae Moyer
Engagement Coordinator

Founded in 1993, the Mainstream Coalition is a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for common sense public policy in Kansas. Our members do more than vote.

6750 Antioch Rd, Ste 305G, Merriam, KS 66204 • (913) 649-3326 • MainstreamCoalition.org