



Neutral Testimony on SB 43
Kansas Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government
February 19, 2019

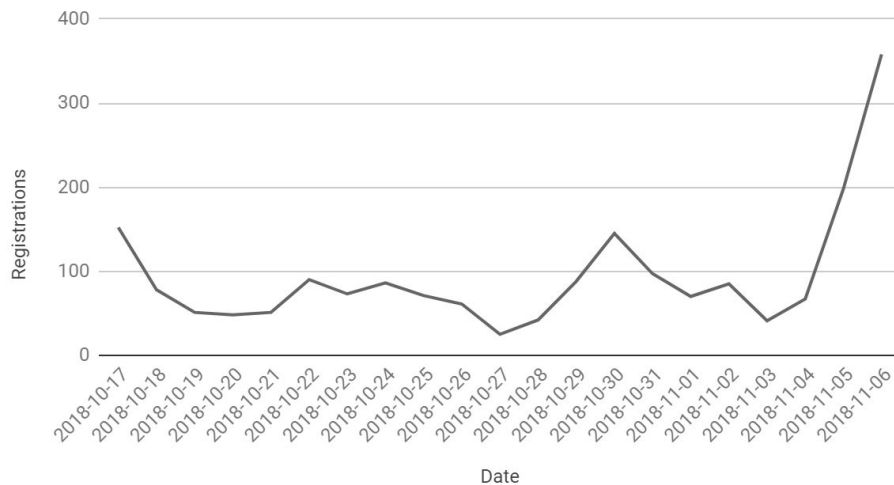
To Chairwoman Bowers and members of the committee;

KSVotes.org // Blueprint Kansas, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-profit organization focused on voter registration and participation in the state of Kansas. We are providing neutral testimony on SB 43. On our website, Kansas citizens can register to vote and request an advance ballot in order to vote by mail. We launched the website in October of 2017, and since that day have processed over 25,000 voter registration forms; we introduced advance ballot applications on Labor Day of 2018 and processed over 20,000 of those between that day and the deadline at the end of October.

We work very closely with county clerks and elections officials to ensure that our forms are received and processed by their offices. We also do significant outreach to low-propensity voters to encourage participation, and hear a lot about what barriers exist to some of these new voters.

In 2018, our website processed 1,977 voter registration forms after the voter registration deadline of October 16 and before or on Election Day. Each of these represents a voter who missed the deadline but still intended to, or wanted to, vote.

Post-Deadline Registrations



We believe that all eligible voters should be allowed to cast a ballot that counts on Election Day. However, we are also aware of the significant logistical and administrative work that elections require of our county elections offices. We support a compromise version of the bill, which would keep the portion of the bill that allows unregistered but eligible voters to cast a provisional ballot at the polls that could be counted at the canvass; but retain the current 20-day registration deadline and remove the requirement to add workers at polling places to register voters on Election Day.

Thank you,
Peter Karman, Project Manager, KSVotes.org