



MainStream Coalition
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Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee
Chair, Sen. Elaine Bowers
Hearing: February 19, 2020, 9:30 am, 142-S

Position – SUPPORT SB 351

Chair Bowers, and Members of the Committee,

The Mainstream Coalition supports SB 351.

The Mainstream Coalition was founded 27 years ago by a sitting Republican State Representative, a sitting Democratic State Representative, and two active members of the clergy, among others. Our Board and membership are bipartisan, and our organization is nonpartisan. Our membership is strongest in Northeast Kansas, but we have members across the state. The support we bring is shared by these Kansans, from a range of political identities.

The Mainstream Coalition strongly defends the right of every citizen to vote. To protect that right, we support efforts to make voting simpler, more accessible, and more secure. This bill would ensure that citizens who are eligible to vote, are able to do so, while not imposing undue burden on the clerks who already process provisional ballots.

Data collected by the US Election Assistance Commission indicates that SB 351 would allow 80% of rejected provisional ballots to be counted—over 6,000 Kansas voters in 2018—again, without adding an undue burden to county clerks.

SB 351 would support citizen participation in our elections in Kansas, and as such, the Mainstream Coalition supports its passage.

Sincerely,

Michael Poppa
Executive Director, MainStream Coalition

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About MainStream

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.