



Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chair, Robert Olson

Hearing: February 17, 2022

Michael Poppa, Mainstream Coalition, Michael@mainstreamcoalition.org,

Oral In-Person testimony

Position – OPPOSE SB 445; Prohibiting the use of additional ballot boxes for the return of advance voting ballots

Chair Olson and Members of the Committee,

Mainstream Coalition opposes SB 445; Prohibiting the use of additional ballot boxes for the return of advance voting ballots.

Ballot boxes are a safe and secure means for Kansans to cast their votes - especially when they struggle to vote in person on election day or prefer not to rely on mailed ballots. SB 445 continues the attack launched by this committee against the proven election measures that Kansans rely on to vote. This bill would make advance voting more confusing, less accessible and less reliable for voters. It would also increase the cost and make logistics more difficult for county election offices as they would be required to continuously observe the advance ballot box.

Last week this committee took testimony - including ours - regarding SB 388. At that time, the security of drop boxes were brought into question with a small number of arson cases in California and Massachusetts used to justify limiting access to drop boxes throughout the state. Concerns for 'election integrity' continue to surface without acknowledging one of the main reasons why Kansans question the security of our elections - the propaganda and fear mongering during the 2020 elections. This, not an unmanned ballot drop box, a three day grace period for mailed ballots, or any of the other reasons cited by the Senate and House committee members - is the reason why Kansans are calling you and questioning whether our elections are a fraud.

Certain bad actors have fueled this fire, introduced this legislation, and blamed effective election practices that provide better access to the majority of Kansans for the turmoil they have caused. We ask you to stop playing partisan games with our elections and just let the people vote.

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

Kansans deserve the right to cast their ballot safely without unnecessary state government interference. SB 445 is a solution in search of a problem - a solution that would make it harder for eligible, registered voters across Kansas to cast their vote.

We urge you to oppose passage of SB 445.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Poppa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Poppa
Executive Director of the Mainstream Coalition