



KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

TESTIMONY CONCERNING HB 2017

JANUARY 8, 2017

We support the intent of this bill to fix old statutory language to allow elections to be held in compliance with current federal and state law. We do not support making unnecessary changes not required to address this perceived upcoming special election.

The Kansas Republican Party Supports:

1. Amending KSA 25-3502 to require the special election to be held 75 to 90 days after the Governor's Proclamation.
2. Amending KSA 25-3504 to require political parties to hold nominating conventions 15 to 25 days after the Governor's Proclamation.
3. Amending sundry provisions of KSA 25-3507 concerning canvassing

The Kansas Republican Party is Neutral on:

4. Amending KSA 25-3504 to permit any political party with official recognition to nominate a candidate without the need to meet a minimum vote requirement at the next previous general election.

The Kansas Republican Party Opposes:

5. Amending KSA 25-3504 to allow an independent candidate to be nominated by petition with only 1,000 signatures of qualified voters.

A Congressional Special Election will inevitably be a low-turnout election making it especially vulnerable and susceptible to so-called "Independent" candidates supported by dark-money special interest groups, which would view the special election as a prime opportunity to place into power a beholden candidate.

To ensure that any independent candidate has genuine popular support the nomination by petition threshold should be the same a regular congressional nomination: the lesser of 5,000 or 4% of qualified voters, as set out in KSA 25-303(c). There are between 410,000 to 480,000 qualified voters in a Congressional District.