

My contribution to the discussion today is to compare Kansas with the other states in terms of their petition requirements to get a party on the ballot, as a percentage of those voting in recent elections. This can give some idea of where Kansas stands with respect to the other states of the union.

It won't look into the morality of the issue, which is however an important issue.

3 different ways that state requirements are structured, that need to be considered: States with no petition requirements, states that require a specific number of petition signatures, like our requirement for independent candidates, and states that require a percentage of signatures to get a party on the ballot, as is the case here in Kansas.

3 states don't require petition signatures; Florida, Mississippi, and Washington.

24 states require specific number of petition signatures: I calculated what percentage of recent voters this worked out to be. There is one outlier; North Dakota 2.03%. Of the remainder, Montana requires 1%, the rest require less. Average works out just under .4% of recent voters. There are 8 on this list that are at or under .1% These along with the three that don't require any signatures and 2 from the bottom of the percentage requirement list below make up the 13 states on the bottom tail of the bell curve.

23 states require a percentage of voters. In this case, the requirements of some states are based on the number of registered voters, and had to be recalculated to make the figures relate to recent election numbers. Of this group, three states require more than Kansas, 3 states equal the Kansas requirement, the rest require less.

These seven states, along with N. Dakota are the outliers that make up the positive end of the bell curve. Note that this tail of the bell curve is much shorter than the bottom tail.

The 16 remaining states of the list of states that use the percentage formula form the middle of the bell curve. Of these 16 3 make up the rise line to the top of the curve. 9 states stand in the middle with a 1% requirement, a flat place at the top of the bell curve. The remaining 4 states are part of the downward slope of the lower side of the curve. This is where we feel that it is appropriate for the Kansas requirement to be, rather than in the tail that consists of the most difficult states to get on the ballot.

I'd be happy to try to answer any questions you might have.

A total of 40 states require 1% or less