



Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chair, Sen. Ron Olson

Hearing: February 10, 2022

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

Oral In-Person testimony

Position – OPPOSE SB 388; Requiring the use of the United States postal service when returning an advance ballot by mail.

Chair Olson, and Members of the Committee,

The Mainstream Coalition opposes SB 388, requiring the use of the United States postal service when returning an advance ballot by mail.

Last week you invited individuals to speak on ‘election integrity’ just months after our Secretary of State Schwab called our 2020 election a success and praised the state’s mail ballot system. Your election integrity experts pushed a false narrative that our elections are unsafe and fraudulent with presentations that included a lot of “evidence” that can easily be proven false with a little logic and google skills. Unfortunately, too many legislators on this committee continue to believe that voter fraud is happening in our state and are resolved to make it harder for Kansans to vote.

In 2021, 459,229 individuals returned advance by mail ballots. SB 388 proposes to limit the ways that these ballots can be returned to only the U.S. postal service, removing the option to use alternative, 3rd party carriers that are proven reliable and efficient. We also fear that as written this bill removes the option to return advance ballots via the convenient and safe drop boxes. This bill would make advance voting more confusing, less accessible and less reliable for voters.

Kansans deserve the right to cast their ballot safely without unnecessary state government interference. SB 388 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 388

Thank you,

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Poppa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Poppa
Executive Director of the Mainstream Coalition