



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose SB 180 Election Changes

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. Our focus is to make New Mexico a better place to live and work, where we have an abundance of good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC respectfully opposes SB 180 Election Changes. While there are some positive changes made in the bill there are far too many significantly flawed areas that will hamper free and fair elections. Specifically, we are most concerned about the following issues:

Section 1-4-1.1 E This section should be rewritten to address current and accurate voter rolls as well as establish residency requirements for voting in New Mexico.

Section 22 F. This section takes away the right to privacy in voting and does nothing to stop third party absentee ballot requests.

Section 25 A.2. Removes the requirement for the date stamp at time of ballot receipt which will add uncertainty and cause additional issues for a secure and timely election.

Section 28 A. This section removes certainty of voter identification because it strikes the requirement for name, registration address and year of birth with a statement under penalty of perjury to assure the person voting is legitimate.

Section 30 A. It should not be allowed that any person in a household can deliver a ballot. This allows ballot delivery for anyone and increases the chance of fraud.

Section 31 B. There should be a finite reason stated for any rejected ballot and this information should be available for review and for the record.

Section 35 D. There should not be a requirement for Congress to get involved in New Mexico elections contained in our election law.

Section 38 I. This change appears to allow 17-year-olds to vote in New Mexico elections and should not be allowed.

Section 40 D. It is important to maintain accurate information on every voter's ballot including information pertaining to returned ballots. This section should not be deleted from the law.

Section 62 C 4. At no time should grants or funds from outside of government – either at the federal or state level – be accepted in New Mexico for our elections, election systems, or election equipment. This section should be deleted.

Section 71 K. The Secretary of State should not be given unlimited power and control to write rules pertaining to the implementation of voting system checks. This section should be deleted from the election law.

We ask that you seriously consider the ramification of these changes. We urge you to take every step possible to assure all New Mexicans with a valid right to vote are assured that right is maintained within a free and secure election system. Allowing felons to vote prior to completing their entire sentence, including probation, is not good for our state.

Further, the changes identified should be corrected before serious consideration is given to this piece of legislation.

New Mexico Business Coalition opposes SB 180 Election Changes and urges you to say 'NO' to its passage.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Sonntag", with a horizontal line underneath.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO