



P.O. Box 95735
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(505) 235-6323

RE: Oppose **SB 218 Election Changes**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. We focus on making New Mexico a better place to live and work, with abundant good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC strongly opposes SB 218 Election Changes. SB 218 represents an unwarranted overreach into our electoral system, introducing changes that complicate and obscure the voting process. The bill's extensive modifications, including the switch in language from "registered voters" to "eligible voters" demand a level of precision in voter roll maintenance that our current system does not achieve. The New Mexico Secretary of State (NMSOS) admits that there is no way to prevent the voter info mail-outs required by SB 218 from going to immigrants who are not legally in the U.S. This could encourage those who are not legally eligible to vote to attempt to register, creating unnecessary work for the NMSOS and unnecessary risk of non-qualified voter registrations.

In addition, this bill threatens to reduce transparency by shifting critical oversight functions away from the Election Bureau without clearly defining who would assume these crucial responsibilities. Ensuring our election system remains open and accessible is paramount, and any move towards diminished public accountability undermines both voter trust and the integrity of our democratic processes.

New Mexico grappled with significant technical malfunctions in its same-day registration system during the recent general election leading many to resort to provisional ballots. Unfortunately, many of these ballots were subsequently rejected, or voters were discouraged and left the polling stations. SB 218's proposed solution, instructing the Board of Elections to issue provisional ballots based on provided addresses, does not adequately resolve the underlying problems.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote "**NO**" on SB 218 Election Changes.

Thank you for considering my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO