



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO OPPOSES ELECTION LEGISLATION THAT LACKS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DEMOCRAT-SPONSORED SENATE BILL 454 DOES LITTLE TO FIX ELECTION PROCESS

Albuquerque, March 18—The Republican Party of New Mexico is troubled but not surprised that a Democratic bill, Senate Bill 454, that aims to revamp election law is chock full of problems that would lead to more serious issues at the polls.

RPNM has consistently been a stalwart supporter of election integrity and has drawn attention to flaws and anomalies in the election process over the past year.

“This bill concerns many who understand that real changes must be made to repair a damaged election system,” says Republican Party of New Mexico Chairman Steve Pearce. “SB-454 lacks transparency and will weaken security provisions that are integral to election integrity in New Mexico. Election integrity has always been paramount to the Republican Party of New Mexico. This bill has serious flaws.”

SB-454 seeks to improve New Mexico’s election system but fails on the promise to execute fair and transparent elections. New Mexico’s election system has been under fierce scrutiny this past year.

The legislation tosses out the important principle of open and fair elections when it maintains zero access to the voting machines. Anyone should be able to access this

information. There should be nothing to hide.

This bill limits poll challengers' access regarding ballot certification. This meaningful work of a poll challenger ensures integrity and transparency. This must be an essential part of the election process if faith of the public in our elections is to be restored. A functional government must have a fair and honest election system.

In 2020 The Republican Party of New Mexico took issue with how GOP poll challengers were treated and given limited access to monitor polling places. We take issue with the weakening of any security provision in the election process.

SB-454 also limits IPRA (Inspection of Public Records Act) requests for New Mexico elections. This really closes the door when it comes to oversight and reviews of elections.

Questions are also being raised about lessening identification requirements. It is imperative that voters provide their name, signature, address, and a unique identification, such as the last four digits of their social security number. This makes more sense in terms of integrity and security rather than all this information be pre-printed on an absentee ballot.

This is a bill that will do great harm to the election process, to our government and to our very democracy.

If the voting and handling of our elections are truly open and fair, RPNM will accept the outcome.