



Date of Testimony: Tuesday, February 25 , 2025

Bill Number: **SB 5:** Prohibiting the use of funds provided by the United States government for the conduct of elections and election-related activities unless approved by the legislature.

Disposition: Opponent; Written only Testimony

From: Cille King, Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Representative Proctor and Members of the House Committee on Elections

The League of Women Voters of Kansas is opposed to SB 5 due the oversight, demands, and funding by the federal government to make elections safe, secure, and accessible to its citizens.

The Fiscal Note for the similar bill in 2024, SB367, stated that federal law requires each state to have a statewide voter registration database. The federal government provides funding (\$1.4 million in FY 2025) for this purpose under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). If this funding is not available, the funds would have to come from another source, likely the State General Fund.

Kansas ranked 36th in voter turnout for the 2020 election of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We can do better. Our citizens are healthier and have a stronger sense of community when more of us vote. Allow for funding for more voter access and other ways to engage our citizens.

Kansans would approve of federal funding to help secure our elections and make them more accessible. They would be especially appreciative in times of disasters, natural or manmade, another pandemic, threats from foreign countries, or even when America realizes that we can do elections much better, but need the funding for infrastructure, equipment, and education.

We ask that you vote NO on SB 5 and allow all the assistance for our elections that the federal government is willing to provide.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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