



STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on HB 2448 (Oral Proponent)

House Committee on Elections

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State supports HB 2448, which would modify KSA 8-2443 to require a driver's license indicate the licensee's citizenship status.

There is currently no mechanism to determine whether an individual is a citizen based solely on state-issued identification. The Real ID star at the top of a driver's license only confirms the licensee is who they claim to be. Every holder of driver's license or state issued ID must already verify their legal presence in Kansas, either as a citizen or as a documented non-citizen.

Although instances of non-citizens registering to vote or voting in Kansas elections are rare and already a felony, they do occur. The recent Coldwater mayor incident made national news. Polls show a significant portion of Kansans, roughly 60% (+), express concern about non-citizen voting.

In response to public concern and to uphold the duties of the office, the Secretary of State is engaged in multiple efforts to identify and remove any non-citizens from the voter rolls including comparison with DMV's temporary driver's license report and the federal U.S. CIS's SAVE program. Under an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, when there is reasonable suspicion that a prosecutable offense has been committed, the Secretary refers the evidence to law enforcement for investigation.

Driver's licenses are the most common form of state-issued photo identification used to satisfy statutory requirements to vote. Placing citizenship status on a driver's license—which we assume would also be included in the barcode scanned by electronic poll books, and accessible when verifying the driver's license number for mail ballots—would provide an additional safeguard to prevent non-citizens from voting, regardless of whether the individual acted with criminal intent or through mistake.

The recent Kansas Supreme Court opinion in *League of Women Voters v Schwab*, reaffirmed the legislature's roll. The Kansas Constitution itself defines who is qualified to vote. (Art 5, Sec 1). The Legislature may require reasonable regulations and evidentiary procedures—i.e., proper proofs—to verify that a person possesses those constitutional qualifications. (Art 5, Sec 4). But the Legislature may not add new substantive qualifications to voting under the guise of proof or impose proof requirements that materially burden or deny the right to vote for constitutionally qualified electors.

This bill is clearly within the legislature's power, as it does not burden or deny the right to vote for any constitutionally qualified elector.

SCOTT SCHWAB
Secretary of State



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Sincerely,

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