



STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on HCR5021 (Oral Proponent)

House Committee on Elections

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State supports HCR 5021, which would amend Article 5 of the Kansas Constitution to incorporate the existing statutory requirement that voters present photographic identification at the time of voting.

A constitutional amendment would enshrine a statutory requirement that is already widely supported and would shield it from any future collateral legal challenge. The Amendment would serve the same policy purposes as current law:

- Confirm that the individual appearing to vote is the registered voter they claim to be and allow election officials to update a voter's registration if the voter's name has changed.
- Deter certain types of election fraud, such as impersonation at the polls, double voting under multiple registrations, and voting by individuals who are not eligible, including non-citizens.
- Enhance public trust and confidence in election outcomes by allowing voters to see and experience that identity safeguards are in place.

The current statutory requirement for presenting state-issued photographic identification to verify a voter's identity is contained primarily in K.S.A. 25-2908. It was enacted in 2011 and passed with bipartisan supermajorities—111-11 in the House and 36-3 in the Senate.

It is the Secretary's understanding that the proposed constitutional amendment would not change or repeal existing law governing the use of photographic identification. Current provisions would remain in effect, including:

- The use of state-issued identification numbers for advance voting by mail and for absentee voting under UOCAVA procedures; and
- The statutory exemptions from the photographic identification requirement currently listed in K.S.A. 25-2908(i).

Public support for photo identification requirements is strong and consistent. Multiple national surveys find that large majorities of Americans—typically between 70 percent and 84 percent of U.S. adults or likely voters—support requiring state-issued photographic identification before voting. For example:

- A recent Pew Research Center survey found that approximately 83 percent of U.S. adults favor requiring government-issued photo identification to vote, including majorities across political parties.
- A recent Rasmussen survey found support among 86 percent of Republicans, 69 percent of Democrats, and 75 percent of unaffiliated voters.

SCOTT SCHWAB
Secretary of State



STATE OF KANSAS

Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-4564
sos.ks.gov

Best,

Clayton Barker

Clayton L. Barker
Deputy Secretary of State,
General Counsel Office of the Kansas Sec
Clay.Barker2@ks.gov