

Support of HCR 5021
Oral Testimony from Lanell Griffith

TO: Representative Proctor, Chairman, House Elections Committee

FROM: Lanell Griffith, Chairwoman of the Shawnee County GOP

Date: January 29, 2026

Subject: Proponent Testimony on HCR 5021

Thank you, Chairman Proctor, Vice Chair Waggoner, Ranking Minority Member Haskins, and members of the House Elections Committee, for considering my testimony.

I applaud this committee's work on tightening up Kansas elections and want to see that election security for the generations of Kansans to come.

Our voter ID law is a crucial element to fair elections – to better ensure that only ballots of the electorate are counted. This safeguard is paramount to maintaining our freedoms of a self-governed People. Our nation's founders fought and deliberated with each other as they sought to bring about a US Constitution for upholding our inalienable rights. And from such iron-sharpens-iron, we even today benefit from the Bill of Rights which they added to our US Constitution because they wanted to unquestionably secure those blessings of liberty to future generations. Those whom we elect to represent us are elected by the democratic process which we treasure as it allows us to self-govern through those whom we've chosen to represent us.

The voter identification law has served Kansans well. It has served as a safety fence to help ensure that each elector's vote is counted once and not cancelled by a vote of a non-citizen. But fences eventually need repair, and if a fence is deemed more necessary than when originally installed – a wall may be built to better protect the treasure. The treasure I speak of is the integrity of our democratic process to self-govern our beloved constitutional republic. Let Kansas lead the way! So that we as Kansans may continue to build faith in our election process, let us make the fence of voter photo identification law into a sturdy wall of a state constitutional amendment so that we, like our nation's founders, may better preserve the blessings of liberty and a citizenry self-governance to our posterity.

We need This wall of HCR 5021 to maintain integrity of our democratic process such that we remain the nation of hope, freedom and inalienable rights. As Kansas led the way in abolishing slavery and respecting the rights of the individual, let us again be a leader in securing our democratic process so that our self-governance is truly by We the People.

Respectfully,

Lanell Griffith

Topeka