

Kansas House Election Committee Testimony Regarding House Bill 2448

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Katherine Bennett and I am the Director of the Process and Procedures Task Force at The American Legislative Exchange Council. As a 501c3, nonpartisan organization, ALEC is dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism.

Based on non-partisan research and analysis, indicating citizenship on a driver's license is a straightforward, effective tool that helps election officials do their jobs with confidence. Legal immigrants are fully entitled to apply [for driver's licenses in the State of Kansas](#), but only citizens are eligible to vote. When Kansans arrive at the polls on Election Day, they deserve a check-in process that is both simple and unquestionably secure. A citizenship notation provides election workers with an immediate, reliable way to confirm eligibility. It does not slow the process, but it does significantly strengthen the integrity of our elections. This is a small change with a substantial impact.

There are also clear benefits for law enforcement. [Nineteen states](#) currently issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. A growing number of states are following [Florida's lead](#) by enacting laws that prevent illegal immigrants from driving on their highways. [Oklahoma](#) is currently considering a law that would treat any out of state driver's license issued to an illegal immigrant as invalid and charge any diver with such a license with a "driving without a license" change. [South Carolina](#) is looking at a similar bill. As more states take up this issue, a citizenship notation on Kansas driver's licenses would give law enforcement a fast, accurate way to determine citizenship status when necessary. It is a practical tool that supports officers in the field and reduces ambiguity in rapidly evolving situations.

ALEC recently published the [Protect Your Highways Act](#), which includes a straightforward requirement to note citizenship on driver's licenses. This is neither radical nor controversial. It is common-sense. Citizenship is a basic identifier that supports law enforcement and strengthens the integrity of our elections. Kansans deserve confidence in a system where voting is simple—and cheating is not. A clear citizenship notation does nothing to burden lawful voters, but it does make it far more difficult for bad actors to exploit the system. This is a practical safeguard that protects both our roads and our democracy.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions.