

PRIVATE CITIZEN

HCR 5021 Opposition Testimony

1/29/2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HCR 5021 with you today. My name is Matthew Obold-Geary and I am a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HCR 2051

While I support the integrity of our elections, I do not believe this amendment will improve Kansas elections and instead will create barriers to voting for lawful citizens.

Requiring photo ID at the polls disproportionately affects certain groups of voters, including

low-income Kansans who may not be able to obtain the necessary identification due to fees or lack of transportation, elderly voters, many of whom no longer drive and may lack current government-issued ID, and people with disabilities and rural residents with limited access to state ID offices.

There is no credible evidence of widespread in-person voter fraud in Kansas that would justify a constitutional amendment. Kansas already has checks and balances in its election system to protect against fraud. Adding a photo ID requirement will impose additional hurdles without addressing real election administration vulnerabilities.

Embedding this requirement in the Constitution makes future adjustments more difficult, even if unforeseen barriers emerge. Any needed changes to accommodate voter needs or access would require another constitutional amendment, a costly and lengthy process.

The goal of our election system should be to encourage participation while ensuring election security. Good public policy seeks balanced solutions that enhance access and trust. This proposed amendment prioritizes a narrow “fix” that could limit participation without demonstrable benefit to election security.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee and the Legislature to reject HCR 5021. Rather than constitutionalizing a photo ID requirement, the Legislature should pursue measures that expand access to the ballot, such as public education about existing ID options, online ID renewals, or free, mobile ID services in underserved areas. Thank you for your consideration.