HB2020 Written Only Neutral Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

HB2020 takes an important step toward protecting election integrity by ensuring that noncitizens are identified and removed from voter rolls. Safeguarding the principle of "one person, one vote" is critical, and maintaining accurate voter registration lists is something every Kansas citizen should expect.

The bill enhances oversight by requiring the DMV to share data with the Secretary of State's office, helping to ensure that only eligible citizens remain registered to vote. Many Kansans have called for measures like this, and I appreciate the effort to address these concerns.

I also recognize and appreciate the amendment directing the county election officer to remove noncitizens from the voter rolls within five business days once identified. However, additional issues remain that I encourage you to address before this bill moves forward. I urge the committee to consider my proposed amendments, which are included on the following pages, to strengthen HB2020 and ensure its effectiveness.

- Lack of Deadline for SOS Comparison: The bill still does not specify a deadline for the Secretary of State (SOS) to complete the comparison process after receiving the DMV's list of noncitizen license holders. Without a deadline, there is no guarantee of timely action, which could lead to delays and inefficiencies in voter roll maintenance. My proposed amendment (see Amendment #5) establishes a specific timeframe for the SOS to act, ensuring accountability and efficiency.
- Compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA): HB2020 must be carefully structured to align with federal laws such as the NVRA, which governs voter list maintenance. The bill should include clear language to ensure that the process of removing noncitizens is legally sound, non-discriminatory, and provides due process protections to prevent improper removals. My proposed amendments, particularly Amendment #3 (Timely Notification & Reinstatement) and Amendment #2 (Expanding Data Verification Beyond SAVE), help ensure compliance with federal law.
- Inclusion of Safeguards: To prevent potential disenfranchisement, the bill should include safeguards ensuring that the process of removing noncitizens from voter rolls is fair, transparent, and legally compliant. My Amendment #1 (Transparency & Public Reporting) requires the SOS to publicly report voter roll removals, rejected registrations, and reinstatements, ensuring accountability and public confidence in the system.
- Timing of Notifications: Another concern is the timing of removals. Since the DMV provides updates quarterly, a list sent at the end of September could result in voter removals just weeks before the November general election. This raises concerns about whether affected voters will have enough time to contest their removal and provide proof of citizenship before Election Day. My proposed Amendment #3 prohibits removals within 60 days of a general election, except in cases of confirmed deaths or voter-requested cancellations.

These proposed amendments will strengthen HB2020, enhancing its effectiveness while minimizing the risk of legal challenges and ensuring fairness without unnecessary disenfranchisement. I urge the committee to carefully consider these amendments before passing the bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kari Sue Vosburgh
Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman

See Suggested Amendments

Proposed Amendments to HB2020

1. Transparency & Public Reporting Requirements

Amendment Language:
"The Secretary of State shall compile and publish an annual report on voter registration list maintenance. This report shall be made publicly available and provided to the legislature. It shall include the following information:

- *The number of noncitizens identified and removed from voter rolls through the DMV notification process.*
- *The number of voter registration applications rejected due to verification failures (e.g., mismatched HAVV records, missing citizenship documentation).*
- *The number of individuals incorrectly removed and later reinstated, including the reason for reinstatement.*
- *A summary of the verification methods used and any updates or changes in policy related to voter registration list maintenance.*"

Purpose:

- Ensures public accountability by requiring the SOS to disclose how voter rolls are maintained.
- Helps identify patterns in errors or inconsistencies to improve processes.
- Provides lawmakers with data to make informed decisions on future election security policies.

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2. Expanding Data Verification Beyond SAVE

Amendment Language:
"The Secretary of State shall utilize additional federal databases, including but not limited to the Social Security Administration's HAVV system, the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE), and any other relevant federal or state databases to verify citizenship status before removing an individual from the voter rolls."

Purpose:

- Prevents overreliance on a single database (SAVE), which may have gaps or inaccuracies.
- Ensures cross-checking with multiple federal sources to reduce errors in voter list maintenance.
- Strengthens the legitimacy of removals, reducing the risk of lawsuits challenging the accuracy of the process.

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3. Ensuring Timely Notification & Reinstatement Process for Erroneous Removals

Amendment Language:
"Any individual flagged for removal based on noncitizenship status shall be notified within 10 business days of such determination. The notification shall provide clear instructions on how to contest the removal and submit proof of citizenship. No voter shall be removed from the rolls within 60 days of a

general election unless they are confirmed deceased or have provided written notice of registration cancellation."

Purpose:

- Ensures voters have ample time to correct errors if wrongly flagged for removal.
- Prevents last-minute purges that could disenfranchise eligible voters.
- Reduces the risk of litigation over improper voter roll maintenance before elections.

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4. Preventing Repeat Registration of Noncitizens

Amendment Language:
"The Secretary of State shall develop a system to track and flag individuals who have been previously removed from the voter rolls due to noncitizenship. If a new voter registration application is submitted for such an individual, the application shall be subject to enhanced verification, including direct confirmation of citizenship status before approval."

Purpose:

- Prevents a cycle of repeated removals by flagging previously identified noncitizens.
- Adds an extra layer of scrutiny for individuals who have been removed from the rolls.
- Ensures that third-party registration drives and state agencies do not continue re-registering ineligible individuals.

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5. SOS Investigation Deadline

Amendment Language:
"The Secretary of State shall complete the comparison of DMV-provided noncitizen data with the voter registration rolls within 20 business days of receipt and direct the county election officer to act accordingly."

Purpose:

- This prevents indefinite delays.