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Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

January 23, 2025

Testimony on HCR5004 (Oral Neutral)

House Committee on Elections

Submitted: January 22, 2025

Chair Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 5004 proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article 5 of the Kansas Constitution.

The Secretary is neutral on the content of the proposed amendment, believing that the people of Kansas have the final say on what provisions are contained in their state constitution. The Secretary makes three points in testimony:

1. One of the Secretary's four constitutional duties is to publish public notice of Constitutional Resolutions. KS Const, Art 14, Sec 1; KSA 64-103. The estimated cost is \$50,000 reimbursed from SGF.

2. The Wyandotte Constitution, adopted by the people of Kansas on October 4, 1859, provided in pertinent part that:

ARTICLE V — SUFFRAGE

Section 1. Every . . . , shall be deemed a qualified elector:

First. Citizens of the United States.

Second. Persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization.

3. The people of Kansas voted on November 5, 1918, to amend that provision of their state constitution by approving Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, approved by the Kansas legislature March 12, 1917.

CHAPTER 353.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SUFFRAGE,
AND ALLOWING ONLY CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES
TO VOTE.

Senate concurrent resolution No. 18.

A proposition to amend section 1 of article 5 of the constitution of the state of Kansas relative to the right of suffrage.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected to each house thereof concurring therein:

SECTION 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: That sec-

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tion 1 of article 5 of the constitution of the state of Kansas be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years and upwards—who shall have resided in Kansas six months next preceding any election, and in the township or ward in which he or she offers to vote, at least thirty days next preceding such election—shall be deemed a qualified elector.

SEC. 2. That this proposition shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in the year 1918 for their approval or rejection. The amendment hereby proposed shall be designated on the ballot by the following title: "The suffrage amendment to the constitution," and shall be voted for or against as provided by law under such title.

SEC. 3. That this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved March 12, 1917.

Respectfully,

Clayton Barker

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