



## **HCR 5004**

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### **Kansas State Legislature House Committee on Elections**

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Madeline Malisa  
*Visiting Fellow*  
Opportunity Solutions Project

Chairman Proctor and honorable members of the committee, my name is Madeline Malisa, and I am a Visiting Fellow at the Opportunity Solutions Project. OSP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. We work in more than 40 states across the country with one goal—to help more people achieve the American Dream. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of HCR 5004.

Americans should decide American elections. This bill will ensure that is true for all elections held at the statewide and local levels in Kansas. HCR 5004 would amend the Kansas Constitution to clarify that *only* U.S. citizens are eligible vote in Kansas. The amendment would remove any alternative interpretation of the current language.

State legislatures across the country have recently passed similar legislation. In all eight of November’s ballot initiatives, a majority of voters approved constitutional amendments making it explicitly illegal for non-citizens to vote in their state and local elections.<sup>1</sup> These states include Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup> Seven states previously had explicit prohibitions including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup>

If HCR 5004 is passed and approved by voters, Kansas would be the sixteenth state to enact this constitutional language. Being an American citizen is a rich and special honor that states should safeguard through commonsense reforms like this bill. I urge you to support it. Thank you for your time and I’m happy to answer any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Ballotpedia, “Nine states approved bills related to noncitizen voting, voters in eight states will consider ballot measures this November,” Ballotpedia (2025), <https://news.ballotpedia.org/2024/07/15/nine-states-approved-bills-related-to-noncitizen-voting-voters-in-eight-states-will-consider-ballot-measures-this-november/>.

<sup>2</sup> Ballotpedia, “Laws permitting noncitizens to vote in the United States,” Ballotpedia (2024), <https://news.ballotpedia.org/2024/07/15/nine-states-approved-bills-related-to-noncitizen-voting-voters-in-eight-states-will-consider-ballot-measures-this-november/>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.