

November 24th, 2025

Secretary Scott Schwab  
Office of the Kansas Secretary of State  
Docking State Office Building  
915 SW Harrison Street  
Topeka, KS 66612



## Kansas

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Secretary Schwab,

A voter who cannot understand their ballot cannot fully participate in our democracy. That reality is prompting local governments across Kansas to adopt resolutions supporting translated election materials, reflecting a shared commitment to ensuring that every eligible voter can cast an informed ballot. There is growing, bipartisan momentum across Johnson County, Wyandotte County and other Kansas communities in support of improving language translation in the administration of our election, and we respectfully urge your office to work proactively with local election commissioners to provide Spanish-translated and multilingual election materials.

Johnson County has now formally recognized language access as a policy priority. The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners recently included language access in its 2026 State Legislative Platform, making clear that accessible elections and information are essential to meeting the needs of the county's diverse population.

This local commitment is not isolated. In 2024, the Wyandotte County Commission unanimously passed a non-binding resolution supporting language access, including Spanish-translated election materials. Roeland Park likewise adopted a similar resolution unanimously. The Prairie Village Diversity Committee also voted twice—each time unanimously—to advance these recommendations, with the full city council expected to vote on the resolution on December 15th. Collectively, these actions demonstrate a clear and growing local desire for meaningful, prompt reform and the expectation that election materials meet the needs of all voters.

The demand is real, and so is the need. Johnson County is home to a large Latino population, and for many of these individuals, Spanish is their primary language. For voters with limited English proficiency, translated materials are not a convenience—they are a prerequisite to understanding their ballots, participating fully in civic life, and exercising their constitutional right to vote at low- to no-cost. When voters cannot meaningfully access registration forms, advance voting instructions, ballot summaries, or polling place information, their participation is compromised.

Federal Section 203 requirements—triggered when at least 5% of voting-age citizens speak a minority language—should be the policy floor, not the ceiling. Providing translated materials strengthens confidence in elections and makes it

easier for eligible citizens to vote, not harder. Kansas voters overwhelmingly support these measures, with a recent poll touting 56% support across party lines along with two-thirds of Johnson County voters.

Therefore, we urge your office to collaborate with the Johnson and Wyandotte County Election Offices and other county election commissioners to make Spanish-language and multilingual materials routinely available across Kansas counties where voters and local officials have identified a need. These efforts support efficient election administration, and reflect the clear, local democratic will expressed through multiple unanimous votes.

The ACLU of Kansas stands ready to support this work and to assist in ensuring that Kansas elections are accessible, inclusive, and reflective of the state's diverse electorate. We welcome further discussion at your convenience.



Sincerely,

Micah W. Kubic, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas