

May 22, 2026

Connie Schmidt  
Johnson County Election Commissioner



**Kansas**

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Commissioner Schmidt:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, I am writing to express our appreciation for recent efforts undertaken by the Johnson County Election Office to improve voter access and our serious concerns regarding the closure of six advance voting locations.

The ACLU of Kansas commends the Johnson County Election Office for its meaningful administrative improvements that will increase participation and accessibility throughout Johnson County. In particular, the increased number of secure drop boxes, including the decision to place these boxes at all public libraries, is a significant step toward expanding secure and convenient voting opportunities for Johnson County residents. Furthermore, we appreciate the increased uniformity and predictability of early voting dates and hours across locations, including the Monday before Election Day, which will reduce confusion and promote accessibility for all eligible voters.

While we appreciate these enhancements, we are deeply troubled by the removal of six advance voting locations—particularly those at the Oak Park Library, the Johnson County Community College Midwest Trust Center, the Central Resource Library, and the Olathe Downtown Library—and recommend reopening all locations for the 2026 General Election. The decision to remove these locations in a county that overwhelmingly relies on advance voting was made with no opportunity for public input and will disproportionately burden low-income voters, voters of color, elderly voters, voters with disabilities, and communities with limited transportation access.

For example, the Olathe Downtown Library resides in an area where roughly 23% of individuals live below the poverty line and more than 22% of the residents are Black and Hispanic.<sup>1</sup> The Central Resource Library borders some of the poorest Census tracts in Johnson County, which lie along the I-35 corridor, where the neighborhoods have a median household income roughly \$52,000, and are home to a large percentage of Black and Hispanic residents. The Oak Park Library, which was

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Characteristics of the Total and Native Populations in the United States." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0601*, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2024.S0601?g=050XX00US20091\\$1400000](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2024.S0601?g=050XX00US20091$1400000). Accessed on 21 May 2026.



the next closest advance voting location for these residents, or the JCCC Midwest Trust Center, which is on the county bus route, have also been closed.

For many residents, especially those working multiple jobs, those who rely on public transportation, or those with caregiving responsibilities, the accessibility of advance voting locations is not merely a matter of convenience but a critical component of meaningful access to the ballot. The closure of multiple advance voting locations risks increasing travel times, creating longer lines at remaining sites, and erecting barriers that disproportionately burden communities already facing structural obstacles to participation. While we appreciate the decision to improve the geographic diversity of advance voting locations, such a decision must not come at the expense of accessible, preexisting locations.

The ACLU of Kansas strongly supports election policies that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, and we respectfully urge you to reevaluate this decision and consider measures that ensure all voters retain a fair and practical opportunity to participate, such as proactive communication informing voters of these changes before the 2026 Primary Election and reinstating all locations for the 2026 General Election. We appreciate your continued service and ongoing efforts to administer elections that are secure, transparent, and accessible to all Johnson County residents, and we welcome continued dialogue regarding ways to strengthen access while maintaining efficient election administration.

Sincerely,

Micah W. Kubic  
Executive Director