

August 18, 2026

Via email to: All County Election Officials

Re: Election Protection Program for August 4, 2026 Primary Election



Kansas

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Dear County Election Officials:

Although we know that many of you remain busy finalizing election results, we wanted to take a moment to express our appreciation of your efforts to ensure a smooth August 4, 2026, primary election, and to follow up on the results of our Election Protection program that day.

Our nonpartisan Election Protection program, run by the ACLU of Kansas with assistance from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, engaged 138 volunteer poll observers spread across 23 counties. The 866-OUR-VOTE Hotline, administered by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights on behalf of the Election Protection Coalition, received 56 calls on August 4 in Kansas. Most calls were general questions seeking information about voting and registration and only a few concerned more serious issues such as potential electioneering or access issues. This volume of calls speaks to how well you and your election staff operated the polls that day.

That said, there are two issues arising out of the primary that we wish to bring to your attention.

First, we received reports from voters receiving mixed messages or encountering confusion from poll workers about the voting options for unaffiliated voters and voters affiliated with a party that is neither the Republican nor Democratic party. We encourage you to ensure poll workers are trained and prepared for the options provided to unaffiliated or third-party voters for any future primary elections.

Second, several of our volunteer poll observers noted that the polling sites they visited lacked clear or obvious signage regarding curbside voting. K.S.A. § 25-2909(d) mandates provision of a curbside voting process for voters with disabilities. Without clear signage or other directions for curbside voting outside polling locations, voters with disabilities may not be able to communicate their needs to poll workers which could prevent them from voting. We encourage you to ensure curbside voting options are obvious and available at all polling locations.

As we look ahead to the November General Election, we welcome feedback about the Election Protection program and how we can continue to work collaboratively with you and your office.

We will reach out again in October to inform you about our plans for the program in November. We anticipate even more non-partisan volunteer poll observers to participate in the program. We will also endeavor to provide you with advance notice of the anticipated polling locations where we expect to have volunteer non-partisan poll observers so you may notify your staff.

Thank you again for your work in this state on behalf of all voters. We appreciate it and look forward to working with you again in November.



Regards,

/s/ Laura O'Reilly
Laura O'Reilly
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Kansas