

KRIS W. KOBACH
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4575
www.sos.ks.gov

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Contact Information

V. Kay Curtis, Public Affairs Director
Kansas Secretary of State
785-296-4580 | media@sos.ks.gov

Kansas Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act Goes to Governor's Desk

TOPEKA (Mar. 29, 2011) – Today the House of Representatives concurred with Senate amendments to HB 2067, the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act. As a result, the Act is on its way to Governor Brownback for signature.

“This is a major victory for Kansans,” said Secretary of State Kris Kobach. “When the governor signs this common sense law, Kansans can be assured that in this state only U.S. citizens will be registered to vote, and that committing voter fraud on election day will be extremely difficult.”

Less than 90 days in office, Secretary Kobach has already accomplished his top objective. During the 2010 campaign, Secretary Kobach made the case that Kansas needs photo ID requirements for voting, and proof of citizenship requirements for registering to vote. Within days of taking office, he introduced the SAFE Act, HB 2067, which had 53 cosponsors in the House of Representatives. That bill will become law when the governor signs it.

“I thank the legislature for listening to the evidence that I presented regarding the 221 known cases of reported voter fraud, and listening to the people of Kansas who wanted this legislation. I am particularly pleased that this bill won bipartisan support in the legislature,” Secretary Kobach said. While Republicans voted almost unanimously for the SAFE Act in the Senate, 3/4^{ths} of Senate Democrats and 2/3^{rds} of House Democrats also voted for the SAFE Act.

The final version of this law contains the requirements that (1) newly-registered Kansas voters must prove U.S. citizenship when registering to vote, (2) voters must show photographic identification when casting a vote in person, and (3) voters must have their signature verified and provide a full Kansas driver's license or non-driver ID number when voting by mail. Said Secretary Kobach, “These are the core provisions of the SAFE Act, which will make sure that Kansas election law is the strongest in the nation. No other state in the country contains all three of these protections against voter fraud. I invite the other states to follow in our footsteps and adopt the Kansas model.”