



STATE OF KANSAS
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Letters to the Editor
Kansas City Star
1601 McGee St.
Kansas City, MO 64108

To the Editor:

Your June 3 editorial (“Amid racial protests, Kansas AG wants to revive Kobach’s racist voter registration law”) was either purposefully inflammatory or woefully uninformed.

Despite the Editorial Board’s perpetual obsession with castigating Republicans, the Kansas proof-of-citizenship statute was enacted by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the Legislature. It passed 111-11 in the House of Representatives and 36-3 in the Senate with votes from many Democrats including Barbara Bollier and Laura Kelly. Some politicians now oppose the bipartisan law they voted for and want me to abandon its legal defense, but changing state law is the Legislature’s job not mine. Opponents of the law have had nine years and 12 legislative sessions to repeal it but have not done so.

As attorney general, my job in this case is to defend the State of Kansas against a lawsuit that argues the state is federally prohibited from enacting a law like this. Our position is that whether Kansas should have such a law is for the Legislature and governor to decide.

It is true, as the Editorial Board somewhat breathlessly points out, that Kansas is appealing after lower courts ruled against it. But that is so in every appeal that reaches the U.S. Supreme Court since the purpose is to determine whether lower courts correctly applied the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Sincerely,

Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General