

KANSAS



SUMMARY

Kansas has one of the weakest democracies in the nation and is at risk for further decline. Kansas' democracy is trending in the wrong direction with the 2nd worst rating on combating democracy subversion.

Overall:



Rank: #43/50

GRADES

VOTING RIGHTS LAWS

D

TIED-34 OF 50

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

B

18 OF 50

DEMOCRACY SUBVERSION PROTECTIONS

F

49 OF 50

TOTAL SCORE: 111.8/300

BEHIND THE GRADES



Voting Rights Laws

- 🚫 Kansas has weak voter registration laws, a restrictive voter ID law, and disenfranchises individuals impacted by the justice system.
- 🚫 In 2021, Kansas passed restrictive voting laws that put barriers in the way of Kansans' ability to register to vote and vote absentee.



Campaign Finance and Anti-Corruption Laws

- 👍 Kansas has slightly above average campaign finance and ethics laws with reasonable contribution limits and an effective independent ethics agency.
- 👎 Kansas could implement rules to prevent improper coordination and require better disclosure for digital political ads.



Democracy Subversion Protections

- 🚫 The Kansas legislature passed a congressional map, that is a racial and partisan gerrymander. Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed the congressional gerrymander, but the legislature used its Republican supermajority to override the veto.
- 🚫 Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt—the Republican nominee for governor—supported Texas' lawsuit to block certification of the 2020 election results and the state legislature passed a resolution opposing federal democracy legislation.
- 🚫 Kansas passed a new law unduly criminalizing election workers for assisting voters.

LOOKING FORWARD

Warning Signs

Former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach—who has spread disinformation about voter fraud for years—is the Republican nominee for Attorney General, raising red flags that he could use the office to restrict voting rights and subvert democracy.