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## STATE OF KANSAS

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Kobach to Visit First Election Under S.A.F.E. Law**

TOPEKA (January 4, 2012) – The City of Cimarron, Kansas, in Gray County, will make history on January 10<sup>th</sup> when it conducts the first election in Kansas under the new Secure and Fair Elections (S.A.F.E.) Act. The law was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in 2011, and most of its provisions became effective on January 1, 2012.

“I am excited to visit Gray County on this historic occasion to personally observe the process and to hear voters’ thoughts about the photo ID requirement,” said Secretary of State Kris Kobach. The secretary of state’s office oversees the administration of all national and state elections in Kansas. “We are committed to protecting the integrity of the democratic process by making voter fraud extremely difficult to commit,” Kobach added.

To that end, the new election law requires that voters show photographic identification at the time of voting, whether in advance or on election day. To ensure that their ballots will count, voters are reminded to bring to the polls one of the following forms of photo ID: driver’s license, nondriver ID card, concealed carry handgun permit, United States passport, government employee ID, U.S. military ID, Kansas college student ID or public assistance ID. Persons age 65 or older may use expired photo IDs.

Kobach commended Gray County Clerk Bonnie Swartz for her efforts, and recognized the efforts of the poll workers who will be administering the new rules for the first time. He said, “Gray County voters are fortunate to have a person with Bonnie Swartz’s experience and knowledge to administer their elections.”

Visit [www.gotVoterID.com](http://www.gotVoterID.com) for more details about valid forms of photographic identification, the process for obtaining a free photo ID, exemptions from the ID requirement, and advance voter ID requirements.