Protecting the Vote Symposium: Dialogues on Citizenship, Elections, and the Franchise

Fifty years after the passage and ratification of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the symposium, Protecting the Vote: Dialogues on Citizenship, Elections, and the Franchise, will examine election law conflicts and politics in America. Discussions will address the requirements of voting, including registration, voter identification laws and early/absentee voting laws. Attention will also be given to the mechanical and logistical issues of voting, including lines at the polls and provisional ballots. The title of the symposium reflects the tension between protecting against corruption at the polls and protecting the individual’s right to vote.

The event will consist of two 90-minute panels at the Hall Center for the Humanities. Seats are limited; RSVP for these panels are required by October 1 to hallcenter@ku.edu. Participants in the panels will include a number of the key historians, political scientists and public policy scholars working on the issues of voting rights. The panels will be immediately followed by an interview of Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, by Stephen McAllister, KU Distinguished Professor of Law at the Commons in Spooner Hall. Kobach will then take questions from the audience. A full schedule will be posted on the Hall Center website in the fall.

Panel One: Historical Issues

- **THU OCTOBER 8, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**
  - Hall Center Conference Hall
  - **Pippa Holloway,** Middle Tennessee State University
  - **J. Morgan Kousser,** California Institute of Technology
  - **Michael Clemons,** Old Dominion University

Panel Two: Politics and Current Legal Cases

- **THU OCTOBER 8, 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.**
  - Hall Center Conference Hall
  - **Dan Smith,** University of Florida
  - **Matt Barreto,** University of California Los Angeles
  - **Lonna Atkeson,** University of New Mexico

Keynote Event

- **THU OCTOBER 8, 5:30 PM**
  - The Commons, Spooner Hall
  - **Stephen McAllister,** E.S. & Tom W. Hampton Distinguished Professor of Law, will interview **Kris Kobach,** Kansas Secretary of State, about protecting the vote.

A full schedule of events can be found on the Hall Center’s website. Co-sponsored by the Langston Hughes Center, Political Science, African & African American Studies, the School of Public Affairs & Administration, and the Hall Center.