

# THURSDAY

# STATE ACTIONS

## **Sample Letter to the Editor or oped: State Officials Must Protect Citizens Against Noncitizen Voting**

*(To be used in your local news outlet as a Letter to the Editor, or expanded to become an opinion/editorial in those outlets. Please feel free to add your own personal touches as well as references to state election law if so desired.)*

Dear editor:

Federal law prohibits noncitizens (resident aliens as well as illegal immigrants) from voting in federal elections. Most state constitutions note that voting is for U.S. and state citizens, but many do not ban noncitizen voting or use the words “citizens only.” (NOTE: Find your state’s citizen requirements [HERE](#) and adjust accordingly)

Although federal laws prohibit noncitizen voting, they do not have specific or meaningful enforcement provisions from registration process through to voting. No documentary proof of citizenship is required to register to vote.

What can a state do? There are actions that governors, attorney’s general, secretaries of state, and state legislators can take.

Because the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (aka “motor voter”) currently prevents states from verifying citizenship at registration, it must be done at the ‘back end’ of the process – after registration. (This is why the federal SAVE Act must be passed – it will require documentary proof of citizenship at registration.)

The first steps state officials can take are: Get serious! Go public! So many citizens do not understand the harm to their own voting choices when noncitizens are allowed to vote, and some – wrongly – do not even think it is a problem.

State and local officials can advocate for the use of federal databases to cross check citizenship status of new registered voters. Under current federal law, two tools (8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 8 U.S.C. § 1644) are available that allow state officials to confirm citizenship for “any purpose authorized by law,” which includes citizenship verification for inclusion on voter rolls.

Officials can also compare voter rolls with state ID and driver's license databases that contain citizenship status due to REAL ID requirements. They can also check voter rolls against “noncitizen” jury duty affidavits as noncitizens are not eligible for jury duty and can return Jury Duty Affidavits affirming noncitizenship.

These are all intra-state databases that can be utilized ... intra-state. A total of 13K+ noncitizens were identified and removed from voter rolls using these methods recently in [Virginia](#) and in [Texas](#). In Texas, 30 percent of these noncitizens had a documented voting history. A recent federal indictment in North Carolina charged 19 foreign nationals from 15 countries were charged with federal voting felonies – 12 of them had voted in 2016.

It's real. It's growing. And our state officials must take action.

I encourage all of your readers to contact our state officials – executive and legislative. Start with a question: “I am concerned. What are you doing to ensure that only citizens vote in the STATE?”

End with a request: “Please. Protect my vote.”

## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR RADIO**

*(Use this to contact your local radio station to schedule an interview through direct email to the producer or host, or through social media. If you are unable to schedule an interview, then utilize these talking points as a “call in” guest.)*

Subject:

**Protecting Citizens Against Noncitizen Voting: What's a State To Do?**

Dear (host)

NAME, TITLE of ORGANIZATION is available to speak about [National Only Citizens Vote Week](#) and what action states can take to protect citizen voters:

Federal law prohibits noncitizens (resident aliens as well as illegal immigrants) from voting in federal elections.

Although these laws prohibit noncitizen voting, there are no meaningful enforcement provisions from registration process through to voting. No documentary proof of citizenship is required to register to vote, leaving state officials removing noncitizens from the voter rolls *after* they have registered.

What can a state do? There are actions that governors, attorney's general, secretaries of state, and state legislators can take.

The first steps state officials can take are: Get serious! Inform the public!

State and local officials can use federal databases to cross check citizenship status of new registered voters and utilize intra-state resources such as ID and driver's license databases that contain citizenship status due to REAL ID requirements. They can also check voter rolls against "noncitizen" jury duty affidavits from self-identifying noncitizens

More than 13K noncitizens were identified and removed from voter rolls using these methods recently in [Virginia](#) and in [Texas](#). In Texas, 30 percent of these noncitizens had voted. A [recent federal indictment](#) in North Carolina charged 19 foreign nationals from 15 countries were charged with federal voting felonies – 12 of them had voted in 2016.

It's real. It's growing. And our state officials must take action.

## **PRESS RELEASE (TEMPLATE) FOR PRINT**

*(Please feel free to add or change quotes attributable to your organization's leader or spokesperson).*

*Press Release*

*Date*

*Place of origin (Washington, DC \ Detroit, MI etc.)*

## **National Only Citizens Vote Week**

### **Question: What Can State Officials Do To Protect Against Noncitizen Voting?**

### **Answer: Plenty.**

Federal law prohibits noncitizens (resident aliens as well as illegal immigrants) from voting in federal elections. Most state constitutions note that voting is for U.S. and state citizens, but many do not ban noncitizen voting or use the words “citizens only.” (NOTE: Find your state’s citizen requirements [HERE](#) and adjust accordingly)

Although federal laws prohibit noncitizen voting, they do not have specific or meaningful enforcement provisions from registration process through to voting and no documentary proof of citizenship is required to register to vote.

But according to NAME, TITLE of ORGANIZATION, there are many steps state officials – governors, attorney’s general, secretaries of state, and state legislators can take to protect citizen voters.

NAME notes, “because the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (aka “motor voter”) currently prevents states from verifying citizenship at registration, voter roll clean up, unfortunately, must be done at the ‘back end” of the process – after registration.”

“The first steps state officials should take says NAME is to get serious and go public! Noncitizen voting is a serious threat to citizen voters and confidence in our election results, and state officials must get in the game.

“Many citizens do not understand the harm to their own voting choices when noncitizens are allowed to vote, and some – wrongly– do not even think it is a problem. Hearing from state officials does much to inform and educate the public.”

State and local officials can advocate for the use of federal databases to cross check citizenship status of new registered voters using 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 8 U.S.C. § 1644 that allow state officials to

confirm citizenship for “any purpose authorized by law,” which includes citizenship verification for inclusion on voter rolls.

Officials can compare voter rolls with state ID and driver's license databases that contain citizenship status due to REAL ID requirements. They can also check voter rolls against “noncitizen” jury duty affidavits as noncitizens are not eligible for jury duty and can return Jury Duty Affidavits affirming noncitizenship.

NAME continues, “these are all intra-state databases that can be utilized ... intra-state. A total of 13K+ noncitizens were identified and removed from voter rolls using these methods recently in [Virginia](#) and in [Texas](#). In Texas, 30 percent of these noncitizens had a documented voting history. A recent [federal indictment](#) in North Carolina charged 19 foreign nationals from 15 countries were charged with federal voting felonies – 12 of them had voted in 2016.

It’s real. It’s growing. And our state officials must take action and hear our voices asking, ‘Please. Protect my vote.’”

*NAME is available for media interviews by contacting NAME at PHONE / EMAIL.*

*This press release may be reprinted in part or in whole provided proper attribution is given to NAME and ORGANIZATION.*

## **X and other Social media posts**

*(Use Thursday. Only citizens vote memes and graphics provided in the tool box)*

*Please tag @EIWatchdogs, @OCVCoalition and @CletaMitchell and use #NationalOCVWeek in all of your X posts. Make sure to tag your state officials.*

- What can state officials do to protect citizen voters from noncitizens voters? Plenty – starting with stepping up and speaking out! Make sure state constitutions include “only” when talking about citizen voting, compare in-state DMV and jury duty bases, and make sure local election officials are cleaning up the rolls. #NationalOCVWeek  
#NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #OnlyCitizensVote

- Hey state officials! Lost in your quest to identify and remove noncitizens from your state's voter rolls? Here's a [map](#) from @America1stlegal. Click through for specific driving instructions. No excuses! #NationalOCVWeek #NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #OnlyCitizensVote
- Hey STATE @mysecretaryofstate. One of your key responsibilities is to provide guidance to local election officials. So here's some thoughts on that: how to identify and remove noncitizens from voters rolls. Check the federal DHS database. Check the state DMV and jury duty databases. Let local officials know what steps they CAN take to ensure that only citizens are voting in our state's elections. #NationalOCVWeek #NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #OnlyCitizensVote
- Hey @mystatelegislators: join the #NationalOCVWeek conversation about identifying and removing noncitizens from STATE's voter rolls. Are your constituents aware of the clear and present danger that noncitizen voting presents to their own ballots? Talk to your election officials and find out if they are comparing DMV and jury duty lists with voter rolls and identifying noncitizens. Protect our ballots! #NationalOCVWeek #NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #OnlyCitizensVote
- Hey STATE, be horrified. 13K+ noncitizens were recently removed from voter rolls in [Virginia](#) and in [Texas](#) (30 percent of these noncitizens had voted.) A recent [federal indictment](#) in North Carolina charged 19 foreign nationals charged with federal voting felonies – 12 had voted. Can it happen in TAG YOUR STATE OFFICIALS? Yes, and we need you to fix it. #NationalOCVWeek #NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #OnlyCitizensVote
- Visit the [Only Citizens Vote Coalition](#) website to learn more about the dangers of noncitizen voting and what you can do to prevent it. ##NoNoncitizensOnStateVoterRolls #CelebrateCitizenOnlyVoting #NationalOCVWeek