



DEBUNKING NON-CITIZEN VOTING

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- Illegal voting by non-citizens is extremely rare: it is a problem dreamt up by politicians eager to implement Jim-Crow style tactics to deter America's growing Latino electorate from voting.
- The notion that an undocumented alien would voluntarily enter the system—let alone risk a \$10,000 fine, jail-time, or deportation—just to cast a single ballot in an American election is unlikely in the extreme. The idea that millions of such people do so is patently absurd.
- Karen Osborne, former elections director for Maricopa County, Arizona, said in 2013 that voter fraud is rare, and even rarer among illegal immigrants. "That just does not seem to be an issue," [Osborne said](#) of the claim that illegal immigrants are voting. "They did not want to come out of the shadows. They don't want to be involved with the government."
- The very few instances of non-citizen voting that have been proven have almost all been cases of legal residents—not undocumented people—who were confused about eligibility requirements.
- Following enactment of Arizona's Proposition 200 (which included the state's documentary proof of citizenship law), over 31,000 individuals were initially rejected for voter registration in Arizona between January 2005 and September 2007 because of a failure to comply with Proposition 200's requirements. Only about 11,000 of these individuals were subsequently able to register to vote.
- In the litigation regarding Arizona's proof of citizenship requirement, which culminated in the Supreme Court case *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, Arizona produced no evidence that the remaining 20,000 individuals who were barred by Proposition 200 from registering to vote were non-citizens, as opposed to individuals who simply were unable to furnish the requisite unreasonably burdened by Proposition 200's documentation requirements.
- This drummed up fear, generated by partisan politicians, has real consequences: it excludes legitimate voters who do not have documentary proof of citizenship, such as elderly people, students living away from home, or married people who adopt the surname of their spouses.
- Further, proof-of-citizenship policies essentially quash community-based voter registration drives, which are responsible for reaching large numbers of potential voters at markets, churches, and other public places where one is unlikely to carry birth certificates and passports.
- After Donald Trump cited a misleading article about the possibility that millions of non-citizens were voting, the managers of the database cited in the article—researchers at Harvard and MIT—issued [a blistering rebuke](#) of the claim. "The likely percent of non-citizen voters in recent U.S. elections," they concluded, "is 0."