

ALASKANS FOR CITIZEN VOTING



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Alaskans for Citizen Voting Launches Citizen-Only Voting Initiative; Signature Drive Underway

Anchorage, Alaska — Alaskans for Citizen Voting today announced the start of a statewide signature drive for a ballot initiative clarifying that only U.S. citizens may vote in Alaska’s state and local elections. With the initiative application approved by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the group is now collecting tens of thousands of verified signatures across at least three-fourths of Alaska’s house districts, as required by state law.

The effort proposes a concise statutory clarification to Alaska’s voter qualification law to read: “Only a person who (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) is 18 years of age or older; (3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and (4) has registered before the election as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction may vote at any election.”

The initiative is sponsored by Senator John Coghill (Fairbanks), Representative Mike Chenault (Kenai), and Senator Josh Revak (Anchorage).

- “The framers of our state’s constitution intended that the voting privilege should be granted only to U.S. citizens. Recent actions in other states require Alaska to clarify our law.” — Senator John Coghill, Fairbanks
- “This is common sense and consistent with what most Alaskans believe is already the law. We intend to make it clear.” — Representative Mike Chenault, Kenai
- “The right to vote is central to our democracy. As a veteran and the husband of an immigrant who became a citizen, I believe we must protect the value of citizenship.” — Senator Josh Revak, Anchorage

Momentum across the country underscores the need for clarity: while several jurisdictions including Washington, D.C., and cities in Maryland, Vermont, California, and Illinois have moved to allow non-citizen voting in certain local elections, fourteen states since 2018 have acted to affirm citizen-only voting.

Alaskans for Citizen Voting is a citizen-led effort to protect the integrity of Alaska’s elections by ensuring our laws clearly reflect that voting is a right reserved for United States citizens.