

Remarks of LWV VA President, Joan Porte, before the State Board of Elections Meeting,
September 2, 2024

RE: "Noncitizen Voting"

Thank you Mr. Chair:

I am the President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. The League is very concerned with the talking point regarding noncitizens suddenly voting in federal elections. We are also shocked to learn that 6000 people have been removed from the voting rolls in the past two years...allegedly because they are noncitizens. However, since the number of non citizens who accidentally register is extremely low, we have no idea who these people are and why they have been removed.

Our election system is safe and secure as has been proven many times. Planting false seeds of doubt about our system is dangerous especially when it may be targeting people least able to defend themselves such as new citizens or perhaps returning citizens.

As per the "Virginia Mercury" :

- A study by the Heritage Foundation — found just 24 cases of noncitizens voting between 2003 and 2023. That's an infinitesimal amount compared to the total number of votes cast.
- The Associated Press reported that Georgia officials in 2022 audited the state's voter rolls looking for noncitizens. Some 1,634 had tried to register to vote over a period of 25 years, but election officials caught all the applications; none actually registered.
- In North Carolina in 2016, an audit found 41 legal immigrants – not yet citizens – cast ballots, out of 4.8 million total votes. Not surprisingly, the votes made no difference in the results in any of the state's elections.
- According to the Brennan Center for Justice studied the prevalence of noncitizen voting, too. "Across 42 jurisdictions, election officials who oversaw the tabulation of 23.5 million votes in the 2016 general election referred only an estimated 30 incidents of suspected noncitizen voting for further investigation or prosecution," it said. "[

It is illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections, there is no evidence that this is suddenly happening and this rhetoric is dangerous, causing undue alarm and making it harder for our hard working elections officials to do their jobs peacefully.