

ASSEMBLY, No. 5573

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DAWN FANTASIA
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Scharfenberger

SYNOPSIS

Requires new and existing registered voters to provide proof of United States citizenship in order to vote in State and local elections.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/15/2026)

1 AN ACT requiring new and existing registered voters to provide
2 proof of United States citizenship and supplementing Title 19 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
9 contrary, residents of this State shall be required to provide proof of
10 United States citizenship in order to be eligible to vote in any State
11 or local election in this State. Within 90 days following the
12 effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill), the Secretary of State shall send a letter to
14 each existing registered voter in this State, informing the voter of
15 the proof of citizenship requirement and providing instructions on
16 how to submit proof of citizenship to the Secretary of State or to the
17 appropriate county commissioner of registration. A registered voter
18 who does not provide proof of United States citizenship shall not be
19 permitted to vote in State or local elections beginning on the
20 January 1 next following the date of enactment of this act, P.L. ,
21 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

22 Except for a form produced by the United States Election
23 Assistance Commission for registering to vote in federal elections,
24 any application for voter registration used in this State shall be
25 accompanied by satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship,
26 as prescribed in subsection b. of this section. The Secretary of State
27 or county commissioner of registration shall make a “federal
28 election only voter” notation in the Statewide Voter Registration
29 System to be associated with any registered voter who has not
30 provided satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship and,
31 upon notation, shall send a notice to the voter informing the voter of
32 the federal election only status of their voter registration and
33 providing instructions on how to submit proof of citizenship.

34 b. For the purposes of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
35 before the Legislature as this bill), satisfactory evidence of United
36 States citizenship shall include any of the following:

37 (1) The number of the applicant’s driver’s license or non-driver
38 identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
39 Commission or the equivalent governmental agency of another state
40 within the United States if the agency indicates on the applicant’s
41 driver’s license or non-driver identification card that the person has
42 provided satisfactory proof of United States citizenship;

43 (2) A legible photocopy of the applicant’s birth certificate that
44 verifies citizenship to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State or
45 county commissioner of registration;

46 (3) A legible photocopy of pertinent pages of the applicant’s
47 United States passport identifying the applicant and the applicant’s
48 passport number or presentation to the Secretary of State or county

1 commissioner of registration of the applicant's United States
2 passport;

3 (4) A presentation to the Secretary of State or county
4 commissioner of registration of the applicant's United States
5 naturalization documents or the number of the certificate of
6 naturalization. If only the number of the certificate of
7 naturalization is provided, the applicant shall not be included in the
8 State and local election voter rolls until the number of the certificate
9 of naturalization is verified with the United States Citizenship and
10 Immigration Services by the Secretary of State or county
11 commissioner of registration;

12 (5) Other documents or methods of proof that are established
13 pursuant to the "Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" (8
14 U.S.C. s.1101 et seq.); or

15 (6) The applicant's Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal
16 treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number.

17 The Secretary of State and county commissioners of registration
18 shall use the Department of Homeland Security Person Centric
19 Query Service to verify that new voter registrations and existing
20 registered voters comply with the provisions of this act.

21 c. The Secretary of State, in consultation with each county
22 commissioner of registration, shall develop guidelines for the
23 implementation of the provisions established pursuant to this act,
24 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
25 including, but not limited to, how to effectively implement proof of
26 citizenship and voter eligibility requirements, and design ballots for
27 federal election only voters.

28 d. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability
29 of a voter to vote in federal elections, irrespective of whether the
30 voter has provided evidence of United States citizenship.

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32 2. Any election official who knowingly and willfully fails to
33 reject an invalid application for voter registration or who knowingly
34 and willfully fails to invalidate an existing voter's State and local
35 election registration pursuant to this act, P.L. , c. (C.)
36 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall be guilty of a
37 crime of the third degree.

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39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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42 STATEMENT

43
44 This bill requires residents of New Jersey to provide proof of
45 United States citizenship in order to be eligible to vote in any State
46 or local election in this State.

47 Within 90 days following the effective date of this bill, the
48 Secretary of State will send a letter to each existing registered voter

1 in this State, informing the voter of the proof of citizenship
2 requirement and giving instructions on how to submit proof of
3 citizenship to the Secretary of State or to the appropriate county
4 commissioner of registration. A registered voter who does not
5 provide proof of United States citizenship will not be permitted to
6 vote in State or local elections beginning on the January 1 next
7 following the date of enactment of this bill.

8 Submissions of applications for voter registration in New Jersey
9 will be required to include satisfactory evidence of citizenship,
10 except for submissions of federal election voter registration
11 applications produced by the United States Election Assistance
12 Commission. The Secretary of State or county commissioner of
13 registration will make a “federal election only voter” notation in the
14 Statewide Voter Registration System to be associated with any
15 registered voter that does not submit satisfactory evidence of
16 citizenship. The Secretary of State or county commissioner of
17 registration will send a notice to each such voter, informing them of
18 the federal election only status of their voter registration.

19 Satisfactory evidence of citizenship will include a driver’s
20 license, a non-driver identification card, a birth certificate, a
21 passport, naturalization documents or the number of the certificate
22 of naturalization, documents or methods of proof that are
23 established in the federal “Immigration Reform and Control Act of
24 1986,” or a Bureau of Indian Affairs card. The Secretary of State
25 and county commissioners of registration will then use the United
26 States Department of Homeland Security Person Centric Query
27 Service to verify that new voter registrations and existing registered
28 voters comply with the citizenship requirements under the bill.

29 The Secretary of State, in consultation with each county
30 commissioner of registration, will develop guidelines for the
31 implementation of the bill, including, but not limited to, how to
32 effectively implement proof of citizenship and voter eligibility
33 requirements, and design ballots for federal election only voters.

34 Any election official who knowingly and willfully fails to reject
35 an invalid application for voter registration or who knowingly and
36 willfully fails to invalidate an existing voter’s State and local
37 election registration will be guilty of a crime of the third degree.