

SENATE, No. 4838

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator LATHAM TIVER
District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires citizenship verification to register to vote in New Jersey elections; directs county commissioners of registration to audit registered voters for purposes of verifying citizenship.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring citizenship verification to register to vote in New
2 Jersey elections and supplementing Title 19 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 of P.L.1994,
9 c.182 (C.39:2-3.2), chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, or
10 any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a county
11 commissioner of registration shall not register an individual to vote
12 in any State or local election, and no registered voter shall vote in a
13 State or local election, until the commissioner has confirmed that
14 the individual or voter, as the case may be, is a citizen of the United
15 States.

16 b. The Secretary of State shall negotiate and enter into an
17 agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security
18 and other federal agencies, as appropriate, in order to facilitate
19 access to the systems and databases necessary to conduct the
20 citizenship verification required pursuant to subsection a. of this
21 section, provided that such systems and databases are used only for
22 this purpose or for those otherwise provided by this act, P.L. , c.
23 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

24 c. The Secretary of State shall establish appropriate data
25 sharing and privacy guidelines to ensure that any information
26 retrieved from a federal system or database and any information
27 provided by an individual for the purpose of registering to vote
28 under the provisions of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
29 before the Legislature as this bill), shall not be shared or publicly
30 disclosed for any other purpose.

31

32 2. a. When a commissioner of registration receives an
33 application to register to vote, other than an application to register
34 to vote only in federal elections on a form produced by the United
35 States Election Assistance Commission, the commissioner shall
36 undertake a review to verify that the individual making the
37 application is a citizen of the United States. In conducting such
38 review, the commissioner shall utilize:

39 (1) Motor Vehicle Commission records, including transactions
40 involving the issuance or renewal of a New Jersey driver's license,
41 a New Jersey REAL ID identification card or license issued in
42 accordance with the federal "REAL ID Act of 2005," 49 U.S.C.
43 s.30301, or an identification card issued pursuant to P.L.1980, c.47
44 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.);

45 (2) information provided by other county commissioners of
46 registration, State agencies, or other states;

47 (3) information available from a federal agency via a system or
48 database to which the State has access pursuant to an agreement

1 entered into under section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
2 before the Legislature as this bill); and

3 (4) any other information from a government entity that is
4 publicly available.

5 b. If a county commissioner of registration is unable to verify
6 the citizenship of an individual making an application to register to
7 vote, the individual's voter registration shall be withheld pending
8 review. The commissioner shall provide the individual with notice
9 and an opportunity to provide satisfactory evidence of United States
10 citizenship. Written notice shall be provided by mail delivered to
11 the address reflected in the voter registration application, shall
12 specify the reason for initiating the review, and shall identify the
13 information that is required of the individual to verify the
14 individual's eligibility to vote in the respective county. The
15 individual shall have 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of
16 such notice to provide the required information to the
17 commissioner.

18 If the individual provides the required information in the
19 required time, then the commissioner shall register the individual to
20 vote in the appropriate county. An individual who satisfies the
21 requirements of this section and is subsequently registered to vote
22 shall not be subject to review pursuant to this section for one year
23 following registration.

24 If the individual is unable to provide satisfactory evidence of
25 United States citizenship, or fails to respond in the required time,
26 the individual shall not be registered to vote in State and local
27 elections. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to
28 limit the ability of an individual to register and to vote in federal
29 elections.

30 c. For the purposes of this section, satisfactory evidence of
31 United States citizenship shall include the following:

32 (1) The number of the individual's driver's license non-driver
33 identification card, examination permit, probationary driver's
34 license, REAL ID license, or identification card issued by the New
35 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission or the equivalent governmental
36 agency of another state within the United States if the agency
37 indicates on the individual's driver's license or non-driver
38 identification card that the individual has provided satisfactory
39 proof of United States citizenship;

40 (2) A legible photocopy of the individual's birth certificate that
41 verifies citizenship to the satisfaction of the county commissioner
42 of registration;

43 (3) A legible photocopy of pertinent pages of the individual's
44 United States passport identifying the individual and the
45 individual's passport number, or presentation to the county
46 commissioner of registration of the applicant's United States
47 passport;

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

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

12 (6) The individual's Bureau of Indian Affairs card number,
13 tribal treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number.
14

15 3. a. In addition to any measures undertaken to maintain and
16 update the list of registered voters in each county and the Statewide
17 voter registration system pursuant to chapter 31 of Title 19 of the
18 Revised Statutes, the county commissioner of registration in each
19 county shall audit the county's list of registered voters twice per
20 year to ensure that all registered voters are citizens of the United
21 States. In conducting such audits, the commissioner shall utilize:

22 (1) Motor Vehicle Commission records, including transactions
23 involving the issuance or renewal of a New Jersey driver's license,
24 a New Jersey REAL ID identification card or license issued in
25 accordance with the federal "REAL ID Act of 2005," 49 U.S.C.
26 s.30301, or an identification card issued pursuant to P.L.1980, c.47
27 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.);

28 (2) information provided by other county commissioners of
29 registration, State agencies, or other states;

30 (3) information available from a federal agency via a system or
31 database to which the State has access pursuant to an agreement
32 entered into under section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
33 before the Legislature as this bill); and

34 (4) any other information from a government entity that is
35 publicly available.

36 b. Each county commissioner of registration shall, in each
37 calendar year, complete the first audit of the year by April 1 and the
38 second audit of the year by September 1.

39 c. If the commissioner cannot confirm through the information
40 available that a voter is a citizen of the United States, then the
41 commissioner shall place the registered voter under review and
42 provide the registered voter with notice and an opportunity to
43 provide satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship.

44 Written notice shall be provided by mail delivered to the address
45 reflected in the voter's file, shall specify the reason for initiating the
46 review of the voter's file, and shall identify the information that is
47 required of the voter to verify that the voter is eligible to vote in the
48 respective county. The voter shall have 30 calendar days from the

1 date of receipt of such notice to provide the required information to
2 the commissioner.

3 If the individual provides the required information in the
4 required time, then the commissioner shall release the voter's file
5 from review, and the voter shall be authorized to vote in the
6 appropriate county. An individual who satisfies the requirements of
7 this section and is subsequently authorized to vote shall not be
8 subject to review pursuant to this section for one year.

9 d. For the purposes of this section, satisfactory evidence of
10 United States citizenship shall include the following:

11 (1) The number of the individual's driver's license non-driver
12 identification card, examination permit, probationary driver's
13 license, REAL ID license, or identification card issued by the New
14 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission or the equivalent governmental
15 agency of another state within the United States if the agency
16 indicates on the individual's driver's license or non-driver
17 identification card that the individual has provided satisfactory
18 proof of United States citizenship;

19 (2) A legible photocopy of the individual's birth certificate that
20 verifies citizenship to the satisfaction of the county commissioner
21 of registration;

22 (3) A legible photocopy of pertinent pages of the individual's
23 United States passport identifying the individual and the
24 individual's passport number, or presentation to the county
25 commissioner of registration of the applicant's United States
26 passport;

27 (4) A presentation to the county commissioner of registration of
28 the individual's United States naturalization documents or the
29 number of the certificate of naturalization. If only the number of
30 the certificate of naturalization is provided, the individual shall not
31 be included in the State and local election voter rolls until the
32 number of the certificate of naturalization is verified with the
33 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services by the county
34 commissioner of registration;

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

38 (6) The individual's Bureau of Indian Affairs card number,
39 tribal treaty card number, or tribal enrollment number.

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41 4. Each county commissioner of registration shall submit a
42 report summarizing the effects of implementation of this act,
43 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
44 including the number of registered voters placed under review,
45 number of voters who subsequently verified their eligibility to vote
46 and the number determined to be ineligible, common bases for
47 determining eligibility, voter appeals, and errors or flaws in the
48 system of review, to the Secretary of State, the Governor, and the

1 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
2 within 30 days of the completion of each audit. The summary
3 report shall be made publicly available on the Division of Elections'
4 Internet website.

5
6 5. a. The Secretary of State, in consultation with each county
7 commissioner of registration, county clerk, county board of
8 elections, and superintendent of elections, shall develop guidelines
9 for the implementation of the provisions established pursuant to this
10 act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
11 bill), including, but not limited to, how to effectively implement
12 proof of citizenship and voter eligibility requirements.

13 b. The Secretary of State may adopt, in accordance with the
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary for
16 implementation of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill).

18
19 6. This act shall take effect one year following the date of
20 enactment, except that the Secretary of State and county
21 commissioners of registration may take such anticipatory action as
22 may be necessary for implementation of this act.

23 24 25 STATEMENT

26
27 This bill requires verification of United States citizenship in
28 order to register to vote in any State or local election in this State.
29 The bill also directs county commissioners of registration to audit
30 registered voters to verify their citizenship.

31 The bill requires that whenever a county commissioner of
32 registration receives an application for voter registration, except for
33 submissions of federal election voter registration applications
34 produced by the United States Election Assistance Commission, the
35 commissioner will seek to verify that the individual making the
36 application is a citizen of the United States. In conducting such
37 review, the commissioner will utilize Motor Vehicle Commission
38 records, information provided by other county commissioners of
39 registration, State agencies, or other states, information available
40 from a federal agency via a system or database to which the State
41 has access pursuant to this bill, and any other information from a
42 government entity that is publicly available. If the commissioner
43 cannot verify the individual's citizenship, then the commissioner
44 will notify the individual and give them 30 days to provide
45 satisfactory evidence of citizenship.

46 The bill also requires the commissioner of registration in each
47 county to audit the list of voters currently registered in the

1 respective county. Two audits must be completed each year, one by
2 April 1 and another by September 1.

3 If the commissioner cannot confirm through the information
4 available that an existing voter is a citizen of the United States, then
5 the commissioner will place the registered voter under review and
6 provide the registered voter with notice and an opportunity to
7 provide satisfactory evidence of United States citizenship. Written
8 notice will be provided by mail delivered to the address reflected in
9 the voter's file, specify the reason for initiating the review of the
10 voter's file, and identify the information that is required of the voter
11 to verify that the voter is eligible to vote in the respective county.
12 The voter will have 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of
13 such notice to provide the required information to the
14 commissioner.

15 Under the bill, satisfactory evidence of citizenship will include a
16 driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a birth certificate,
17 a passport, naturalization documents or the number of the certificate
18 of naturalization, documents or methods of proof that are
19 established in the federal "Immigration Reform and Control Act of
20 1986," or a Bureau of Indian Affairs card.

21 The bill requires each county commissioner of registration to
22 submit an annual report to the Secretary of State, the Governor, and
23 the Legislature detailing the effectiveness of the voter review
24 procedures implemented pursuant to the bill's provisions.

25 The Secretary of State, in consultation with each county
26 commissioner of registration, will develop guidelines for the
27 implementation of the bill, including, but not limited to, how to
28 effectively implement proof of citizenship and voter eligibility
29 requirements.