

PRESS RELEASE



IDAHO LEGISLATURE PASSES CITIZEN ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT

IDAHO JOINS KENTUCKY, IOWA, WISCONSIN WITH COVA ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

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BOISE, ID - The Citizen Only Voting Amendment (HJR5) passed the Idaho Senate in a 28-6-1 vote today. The bill previously passed the House on March 11 by a 63-6-1 vote. Idaho voters will vote on whether to add citizen-only voting to the state constitution in this November's General Election. Idaho joins Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin whose voters will also have the Citizen Only Voting Amendment (COVA) on the ballot this November.

"Idahoans want safe and reliable elections. With the approval of House Joint Resolution 5 we are giving Idahoans a chance to vote for a constitutional amendment that ensures only U.S. citizens can vote in Idaho's elections," said bill sponsor Representative Kevin Andrus. "I'm confident in November Idahoans will overwhelmingly vote in favor of citizen-only voting"

"State legislators have noticed the success of the non-citizen voting movement and are taking action to stop it," said ACV President Avi McCullah. "We are three months into the year and two states have passed COVA. There will be more."

In recent years city councils in New York, Washington, DC, and three cities in Vermont have voted to legalize foreign citizen voting. They join cities in California, Illinois, and Maryland which, because of a loophole in their state constitutions, also allow foreign citizen voting.

"Most state constitutions do not specifically prohibit foreign citizen voting. Many people, even legislators, are unaware of this fact," continued McCullah. "This November - Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin will join the eleven states whose constitutions reserve the right to vote for only citizens of the United States. But that's not all, COVA is working through the legislative process in about ten states right now. This November, citizens in many other states will be voting for COVA and protecting the citizens' right to vote."

Americans for Citizen Voting is a nonpartisan grassroots organization dedicated to helping citizens pass Citizen Only Voting Amendments. In recent years the following states have passed COVA: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Ohio, and North Dakota. COVA efforts are underway in Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia. COVA has passed the Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky and Wisconsin legislatures and will be voted on by the people this November.

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