

PRESS RELEASE



KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE PASSES CITIZEN ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT

KENTUCKY JOINS IOWA, WISCONSIN WITH COVA ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

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CONTACT: JACK TOMCZAK

612-306-3076

FRANKFORT, KY - The Citizen Only Voting Amendment (SB143) passed the Kentucky House 72-12 on Friday March 15. The bill previously passed the Senate on February 14 by a 31-4 vote. Kentucky voters will vote on whether to add citizen-only voting to the state constitution in this November's General Election. Kentucky joins Wisconsin and Iowa who will also have the Citizen Only Voting Amendment (COVA) on the ballot this November.

"It's odd we don't already have this spelled out in our Constitution. While this is specifically prohibited at the federal level, it isn't addressed here in Kentucky," said bill sponsor Senator Jason Howell (R-Murray). "This is about protecting citizens and the thousands of people who've lawfully navigated the immigration process. One of the rewards of doing so is earning the right to vote."

"State legislators have noticed the success of the non-citizen voting movement and are taking action to stop it," said ACV President Avi McCullah.

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, 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, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia. COVA has passed the Iowa and Wisconsin legislatures and will be voted on by the people this November.

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