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Citizen Only Voting Gains 54 New Sponsors

With time running out, leaders urged to allow a vote

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - Senate Joint Resolution 23, the Citizen Only Voting Amendment, is gaining traction this week at the Oklahoma General Assembly with 54 legislators joining as co-sponsors. Thirty state senators and 24 state representatives signed onto the bill that would send a constitutional amendment to Oklahoma voters mandating that only citizens of the United States can be voters in state and local elections.

“The legislative session ends Friday and we need the Senate to suspend the rules and pass SJR23 with time for the House to vote on it,” said Jack Tomczak, vice-president of Outreach with Americans for Citizen Voting. “With a total of 33 authors in the Senate we now have the numbers to pass it, provided Senate leadership allows a vote.”

If SJR23 passes, Oklahoma will join six other states — Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Wisconsin — in having a Citizen Only Voting Amendment on the ballot this November.

If SJR23 does not pass, Oklahoma home rule municipalities could legalize non-citizen voting as have more than a dozen cities in California, Maryland, New York, and Vermont. “There is no clear impediment for a municipality,” Law Professor Joshua Douglas wrote about Oklahoma in [The Right to Vote in Local Elections](#), “to extend the right to vote to non-citizens.”

Since 2018, six states have passed Citizen Only Voting Amendments with an average YES vote of 76 percent: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota, and Ohio.

Americans for Citizen Voting is a non-partisan, non-profit group advocating for making voting the exclusive right of U.S. citizens. For more information or to arrange an interview, call Jack Tomczak at (202) 919-9558.

30