

# PRESS RELEASE



## OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE PASSES CITIZEN ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT

*OKLAHOMA JOINS ID, IA, KY, SC, MO, WI WITH COVA ON NOVEMBER BALLOT*

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - The Citizen Only Voting Amendment (SJR23) passed the Oklahoma House of Representatives in a 81-20 vote this afternoon. The bill passed the Senate earlier in the day by a 40-8 vote. Oklahoma voters will vote on whether to add citizen-only voting to the state constitution in this November's General Election. Oklahoma joins Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, South Carolina, Missouri, and Wisconsin whose voters will also have the Citizen Only Voting Amendment (COVA) on the ballot this November.

"Despite having just received SJR 23 on the last day of the legislative session, the House immediately took up this important resolution," said bill author Speaker Charles McCall, R-Atoka. "This further cements the House's commitment to citizen only voting shown through our passage of HR 1047 earlier this session. Voting in Oklahoma elections should be a right reserved and protected only for those who are citizens of our great state."

"Oklahoma is the seventh state so far that will have COVA on the ballot this November," said ACV President Avi McCullah. "Without COVA, Oklahoma Home Rule cities could have legalized non-citizen voting and the legislature would have been powerless to stop it. South Dakota has the same vulnerability right now."

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

"This was a Herculean effort of collaboration with grassroots efforts all over Oklahoman and patriots who care about the security of our constitutional republic. This sends a strong message that here in Oklahoma we care about rule of law, election integrity, and the security of our nation," said bill co-author Senator Shane Jett. "It was an honor to work with Americans for Citizen Voting team on this important initiative."

Americans for Citizen Voting Oklahoma chapter president Paul Abner commented, "It's heartening to see our legislature come together and listen to the overwhelming voices of Oklahomans. Their united action not only reflects the will of the people but also reinforces our democracy at a time when it's needed most. This is a significant step forward in protecting the sanctity of our electoral processes and maintaining the trust of our citizens in their government."

"There are even efforts underway in Montana to call a special session in order to get COVA on the November ballot, added McCullah. "Hopefully, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Dakota, and West Virginia will hold special sessions soon and get done what they couldn't in their regular sessions."

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

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