

November Ballot Question Aims to Amend Wisconsin Constitution to Clarify Only U.S. Citizens May Vote in Elections

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On Tuesday, November 5th, Wisconsin voters will head to the polls to elect federal and state officials. Additionally, the Wisconsin Legislature has placed a question on the ballot that aims to amend the state's constitution.

Text: The question on ballots will read, *“Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide of local referendum?”*

History: The question was placed on the ballot through passage of joint resolutions in two successive legislative sessions. [Senate Joint Resolution 32](#) passed in early 2022, while [Senate Joint Resolution 71](#) passed in late 2023.

Context: [The Wisconsin Constitution](#) currently reads, *“Every United States citizen age 18 or older who is a resident of an election district in this state is a qualified elector of that district.”*

In his [co-sponsorship memo](#) in early 2021, Senator Roger Roth wrote, *“The Wisconsin Constitution provides that every U.S. Citizen is a qualified elector, but does not specify that only U.S. Citizens are qualified electors.”*

[Congress passed a law in 1996](#) that prohibited noncitizens from voting, specifically in federal elections, but did not make any such stipulation for state or local elections.

As of 2024, [sixteen municipalities allow noncitizens to vote in local elections](#). Those municipalities are located in Maryland, Vermont, and California.

There is currently no initiative in Wisconsin to allow noncitizens to vote in local elections, though some organizations such as immigration group Voces de la Frontera in Milwaukee [have stated they would support such a measure](#).

The ballot initiative does not enact any voting restrictions in the state. The authors maintain their primary goal is to prevent any ambiguity in how voting rights are applied in Wisconsin.

To find your polling location, view a sample ballot, check your voting status, or see if your legislative boundaries have changed, visit myvote.wi.gov.