



Letting Noncitizens Vote?

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“All of us want to make sure only U.S. citizens are voting in our elections,” Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson [told](#) NBC’s *Meet the Press* before last year’s election. She assured the national audience that she and other Secretaries of State were following the law and “ensuring that only valid votes are counted in our states.”

“We are doing all that we can and more to ensure—as the facts show in all of our states—that only U.S. citizens are voting.”

Problem is, Secretary Benson did *not* ensure that only U.S. citizens voted in Michigan. Under her stewardship, we now know that noncitizens did

indeed vote.

Last November, a Chinese student at the University of Michigan registered and voted. The reason we know this is that the foreign student apparently thought better of it and asked officials for his ballot back.

Too late, though, for Haoxiang Gao’s vote had already been counted. Last week, Gao [missed](#) a court hearing and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. (Will Beijing send him back to stand trial?)

Since that one, lone, incredibly rare, don’t-worry-your-pretty-little-head-about-it incident, officials have discovered another 15 votes cast by noncitizens.

Also last week in Michigan, House Joint Resolution B was [defeated](#). This measure would have clarified only citizens as eligible voters, requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and photo ID to vote. Democrats, including Secretary Benson (now a candidate for governor), opposed it fiercely.

Yet, you guessed it, something else happened last week: Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan [filed](#) an initiative petition to place the Citizen Only Voting Amendment, passed overwhelmingly so far in 14 states, on the ballot in the Great Lakes State. Polling back in January showed 82 percent of likely voters favor the measure.

“Leaving holes in the process that easily allow noncitizens to vote disenfranchises citizens,” [said](#) Kurt O’Keefe, the committee’s treasurer. “We need to make sure that only U.S. citizens can vote in our elections. This initiative does the job.”

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

Note: I’m the national chairman of Americans for Citizen Voting.