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ELECTIONS

VOTING

Michigan Democrats' election proposals sidestep the noncitizen-voting issue for now

The first round of bills on maintaining voter rolls addresses the 'low-hanging fruit,' lawmaker says, with more targeted legislation to come.

BY: HAYLEY HARDING, VOTEBEAT - MAY 12, 2025 7:00 AM



A Nothing in Michigan

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It's May in Michigan and Democrats have just "introduced their first pieces of legislation to respond to what they consider overly aggressive Republican proposals to improve election security," Hayley Harding [reports](#) for *VoteBeat*.

Yes, the problem is those darn Republicans wanting too much election security too fast, doncha know.

"Michigan Democrats' election proposals sidestep the noncitizen-voting issue for now," was how the *Michigan Advance* headlined the [article](#), in which Harding explains that "the package of bills under the Michigan Election Security Act won't close the voter registration loopholes that may have allowed at least one noncitizen to cast a

ballot that counted last year."

Oops! That [one University of Michigan student](#), Haoxiang Gao, is a Chinese national, who didn't show up for [court](#); whereabouts currently unknown.

Since that bombshell, another [15 cases](#) have surfaced of noncitizens voting illegally last November. Nonetheless, Harding informs us that "the bills omit the measures Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson suggested in February as a way to prevent noncitizens from casting ballots in Michigan's elections."

Back then Benson "didn't provide details of her proposal," [noted](#) Harding, but mentioned "policies that enable us to track and retrieve" those votes "cast by voters who registered the same day as the election."

"It could be provisional ballots, it could be additional verification or residency requirements in that moment," the Secretary of State, now a candidate for governor (whose recent campaign announcement on state government property [violated](#) state law) offered reporters.

Sure, her proposal could have been a lot of things.

Now we see, however, that it is nothing.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.