



## Expanding the Electorate

May 5 , 2026

### Who should vote? Ought we expand the electorate?

To everyone . . . *on the planet?*

Do folks from other countries, who have come to America, legally or not, and reside in a community for 30 days, have a *right* to vote?

Well, they do under a [crazy](#) law in our nation's capital. Even the ambassadors and embassy workers (and spies) that China and Russia send to represent their regimes, could, if they so desired, register and vote for the next mayor, city council-member and ballot measure in the federal capital . . . if those foreign nationals have been here (working for another country) for 30 days.

The far-left-of-sanity Democrats on the D.C. City Council passed it — without a popular vote.

At least in Los Angeles there will be a public vote — should

the push by Democratic Socialists of America-[backed](#) Democrats on that City Council [advance a measure](#) to allow noncitizens in L.A., legally or not, to vote in local elections.

Citizenship seems a wiser qualifier at *all* levels of government.\*

“Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections,” *The Los Angeles Times* reports. “However, states are allowed to set their own local and statewide election rules.”

Note that *The Times* does not inform readers that states, such as California, determine [who is qualified](#) to vote in federal elections in those states. Were California to allow noncitizens to vote in its state legislative elections — not too giant a leap from noncitizen voting in L.A. and San Francisco — those noncitizens would be legally qualified to vote for California's representatives in Congress and the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Constitution's “Qualifications Clause” is [clear](#).

This state “loophole” is something worth closing through Florida Rep. Laurel Lee's constitutional [amendment](#).

Locally, statewide, nationally: *let the people decide*.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

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\* I serve as chairman of Americans for Citizen Voting. We have worked to pass Citizen Only Voting constitutional amendments in 15 states and to place these measures on six more state ballots this November. We now ask Congress to consider and propose a federal constitutional amendment, HJR 152, the [U.S. Citizens Vote Amendment](#).