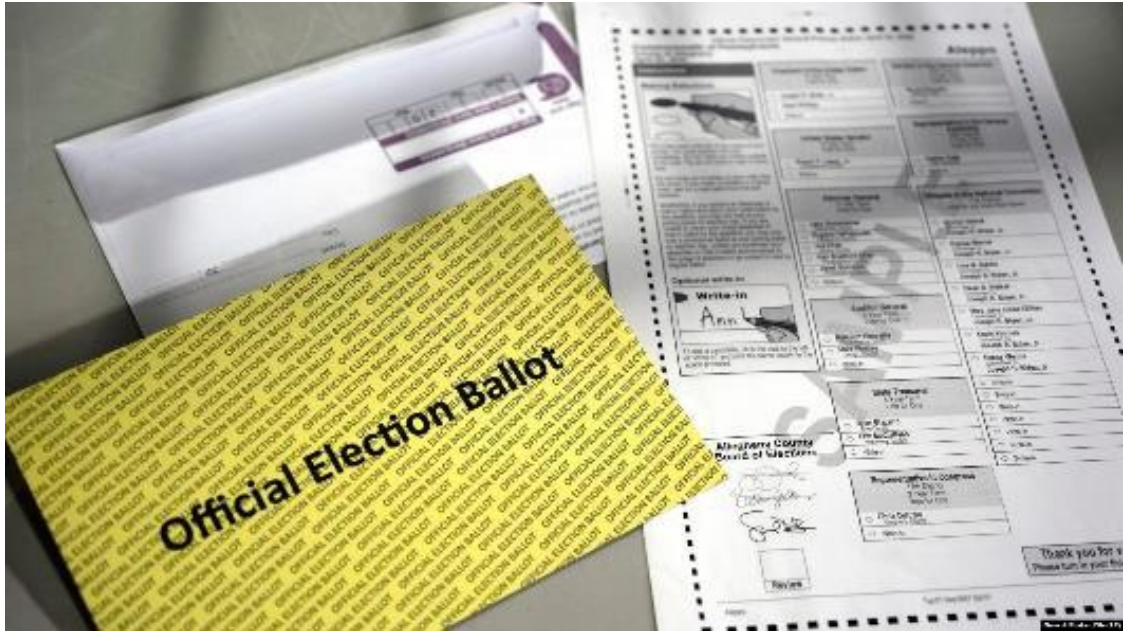


Can Noncitizens Vote in US Elections?

アメリカでは、選挙で投票できる人の条件をめぐる議論が続いています。これまで当たり前とされてきた考え方にも、さまざまな意見が出ているようです。投票は社会のあり方を形づくる重要な行動の一つといえます。その中で、「誰が参加できるのか」という問いはどのように考えられているのでしょうか。あなたはどのように思いますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

United States law bans noncitizens from voting in federal elections, such as elections for president, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

Like many states, Pennsylvania also bans noncitizens from voting in elections for state offices.

A 1996 federal law [permits](#) fines and imprisonment for up to a year for noncitizens who [vote](#) in federal elections. Violators can also be deported. When people in the U.S. [register](#) to vote, they swear officially that they are U.S. [citizens](#).

In Pennsylvania, as in other states, people must meet requirements, including citizenship, to register to vote. The state constitution says a voter must "have been a citizen of the United States at least one month." They also have to prove that they live in the state and voting district.

Ellen Lyon is a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Department of State. Lyon said, if a noncitizen did try to vote in a Pennsylvania election, they would face punishment, including imprisonment and deportation.

The department is "not aware of any instances of noncitizens registering to vote or voting in any recent elections," Lyon said in an email to The Associated Press (AP).

Ron Hayduk is a political science professor at San Francisco State University in California who studies voting laws for noncitizens. He said that studies show noncitizens are not [illegally](#) voting in big numbers.

There have been some reports of noncitizens illegally casting ballots, Hayduk said, but such incidents are very rare.

The Brennan Center for Justice is a research group at New York University. In 2017, the group studied 42 voting areas across the United States in the 2016 election. It reported that of 23.5 million votes cast, election officials found about 30 cases of possible noncitizen voting that they referred, or reported, to law enforcement.

The state of Georgia examined its voter lists in 2022 and found fewer than 2,000 times when noncitizens tried to register to vote over the last 25 years. None of those people were registered because they did not qualify. Millions of new Georgia voters registered during that time.

In 2017, Pennsylvania said that it had to fix a mistake that permitted noncitizen immigrants to register to vote when getting a driver's license. State election officials said noncitizen immigrants might have cast 544 ballots illegally — out of more than 93 million ballots in elections dating back 18 years, going back to 2000.

Daniel Mallinson is an associate professor of public policy and administration at Penn State University in central Pennsylvania. He said claims that noncitizens are voting in large numbers have been "clearly debunked over and over and over again."

The AP says no state constitutions clearly permit noncitizens to vote. But some cities and towns in the states of California, Maryland and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia, do permit voting by noncitizens in some local elections such as for school board and city council.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. permit (v.) to allow something to happen

You are permitted to bring one personal item with you onto the plane.

2. vote (v.) to make a choice in an election

We will vote for a new president next week.

3. register (v.) to officially record information

You must register before joining the club.

4. citizen (n.) a person who legally belongs to a country

Paulo became a citizen after living in Japan for many years.

5. illegally (adv.) done in a way that is not allowed by law

The police gave me a ticket for parking illegally.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What must people do when they register to vote in the United States?
2. What did researchers find about possible cases of noncitizen voting?
3. In what kinds of elections can some noncitizens vote in certain areas?
4. Do you think noncitizens should be allowed to vote in local elections?
Why or why not?
5. What requirements should people meet before they can vote?