

ADVERTISEMENT

IN SESSION

» A Look Inside Tennessee Politics

State legislation could keep non-citizens out of polling places

March 5th, 2013 | by Michael Cass | 1 Comments

Like Tweet 5 +1 0 Email Print Share A A +

The Davidson County Election Commission isn't the only government agency looking at a controversial proposal about the electoral rights of foreign-born residents.

Legislation moving through the General Assembly would prohibit non-citizens from working in or even entering polling places. It would require poll watchers to be U.S. citizens and bar non-citizens from admission to voting sites.

The Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition criticized the bill this week, saying it would step on the rights of voters to bring someone with them "to assist them in voting, for reasons of literacy, fluency in the English language, physical ability, etc."

"This bill would limit the right of voters to bring the person they trust to the polling place if that person, for example, is a green card holder and is not yet a U.S. citizen," the organization said in an emailed statement. "Furthermore, poll watchers play an important role in protecting our democracy and the integrity of our elections. Their role and responsibilities are not dependent on a person's immigration status."

A fiscal note attached to the legislation says the estimated financial impact is "not significant." Why? Because "currently election officials must be registered voters and therefore United States citizens."

About The Author



Michael Cass

Michael Cass has been a reporter for The Tennessean since 1999. He has covered Metro government and politics since 2005.

Email

ADVERTISEMENT

About

The Tennessean's political staff keeps tabs on the latest from Legislative Plaza and beyond. Contributors include Chas Sisk, Michael Cass, Nate Rau, Elizabeth Bewley and Bill Theobald.

CATEGORIES

- Election (747)
- Local (1034)
- National (441)
- National News (341)
- Politics (2289)
- State (1189)

Posted In: Election, Local, Politics, State



Post to Facebook



Phil Perry · Associate Pastor at Preaching and Teaching the Word of God

Problem? If you are not a US Citizen, then you cannot legally vote and have no business being around polling places!

Reply · Like · 39 minutes ago

← PREVIOUS ARTICLE

**Wine in g
Senate**

→ NEXT ARTICLE



1



5



0

Tags

6th congressional district Barack Obama Bart Gordon beth harwell Bill Haslam Bill Ketron Bob Corker Chip Forrester diane black District 18 Douglas Henry education Glen Casada Governor's race guns health care reform House jeff yarbro Jim Cooper Jim Gotto jim kyle Jim Tracy Karl Dean Kent Williams Kristine LaLonde Lamar Alexander lou ann zelenik Marsha Blackburn Metro Council Metro Council elections MIKE MCWHERTER mike turner mitt romney Music City Center Phil Bredesen republicans Rich Riebeling ron ramsey scott desjarlais Senate Stephen Fincher tea party Tennessee Democratic Party Tennessee State Fairgrounds Zach Wamp

THE TENNESSEAN

Site Map | Back to Top ^

NEWS

- Crime & Courts
- Government & Politics
- Politics Blog
- Local Data
- Faith & Values
- Education
- State News
- Nation & World
- Special Reports
- Today's Traffic

OBITUARIES

- Search Obituaries

COMMUNITIES

- Wilson
- Dickson
- Sumner
- Williamson
- Robertson
- Rutherford
- Ashland City
- Davidson

ENTERTAINMENT

- Event Calendar
- Music
- Restaurants & Dining
- Metromix
- Arts & Culture
- Crossword
- Sudoku

SPORTS

- Titans
- Predators
- UT
- Vanderbilt
- MTSU
- Colleges
- High Schools
- Motorsports

OPINION

- Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- Tennessee Voices
- Teachable Moments
- Live Chats
- Nashville Bloggers
- Brainstorm Nashville

BUSINESS

- Auto Industry
- Business Blog
- Music Industry
- Real Estate
- Health Care
- Stocks
- Technology

LIFE

- Ms. Cheap
- Family
- Shopping Diva
- Society
- Nashville Lifestyles
- Travel
- Home & Garden
- Health & Fitness
- Food & Wine
- Portfolio

HELP

- Customer Services
- Feedback
- Staff Directory
- Place an Ad
- Submit a Letter
- Work for us
- Archives
- Buy a photo

FOLLOW US

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Mobile
- RSS
- E-mail Alerts



GANNETT

Copyright © 2013 www.tennessean.com. All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)