

LOCAL NEWS

Macomb clerk: Seven non-citizens registered to vote points to ongoing problem

Non-citizens found among those summoned for jury duty



Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini, second from right, speaks in the Macomb County courthouse jury room about his findings regarding non-citizens being registered to vote, surrounded by former Michigan Secretary of State Candice Miller, second from left, Clerk’s Office employee Monika Rittner, and state Rep. Joe Aragona.

MACOMB DAILY FILE PHOTO

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Seven non-citizens who reported for jury duty in Macomb County are registered to vote though none of them have a voting record, county Clerk Anthony Forlini said Wednesday.

Forlini released his office’s most recent results in tracking those selected and reporting for jury duty at Macomb Circuit Court at the Mount Clemens courthouse.

During the first quarter of this year, 198 non-citizens of the United States “self-reported by presenting green cards or other documentation confirming they were not U.S. citizens and therefore ineligible for jury service,” says a press release by Forlini

Seven of those 198 also are registered to vote, Forlini says.

It is illegal for non-citizens to vote or serve on a jury.

The findings follow Forlini's prior report that indicated four non-citizens who were called for jury duty in 2025 also were registered to vote and showed a voting history.

Forlini called it "unconscionable that this problem continues."

"To bring greater transparency to this issue, our office will begin posting a running tally on our website so the public can remain informed, and legislators can better understand the scope of the problem and craft reforms to prevent it from continuing," he said.

The Clerk's Office garners juror lists from driver's licenses and personal identifications issued by the Secretary of State. Non-citizens can obtain a driver's license.

The findings have been provided to the Bureau of Elections within the Secretary of State office for removal from the Qualified Voter File.

Secretary of State spokeswoman Cheri Hardmon said Wednesday, "We cannot confirm that all or any of those Clerk Forlini is referring to are non-citizens because the records are still under review. However, this referral to BOE (Bureau of Elections) is the process we have encouraged clerks to follow when questions arise about citizenship status based on jury lists."

County clerks are required to remove voters who have moved or died but are not required to remove non-citizens. However, the Bureau of Elections tells clerks in the March 11 letter that "registrations belonging to non-U.S. citizens should be cancelled following verification and notification to the registered voter."

The 2-1/2-page letter says clerks who discover a suspected non-citizen is in the voter file to forward to the Bureau.

Forlini, a Republican, is running against Democrat Garlin Gilchrist II for Michigan Secretary of State in this year's election. Gilchrist is currently the lieutenant governor.

Forlini initially raised attention about the issue last January when a review of those reporting for jury duty in 2025 showed that 640 reported as non-citizens so were exempted from serving on jury duty. Of those, seven had been registered to vote, four of whom had a voting history.

The individuals were referred to law enforcement agencies but none have been charged.

Forlini has said that non-citizens could have illegally sat on juries if they didn't self-report themselves as being ineligible, though he said that is likely a small number.

Up to 100,000 county residents are summoned for jury duty each year though about 10,000 a year are ordered to appear.

"Our staff spends a considerable amount of time verifying citizenship status for prospective jurors," Forlini said. "There is also the possibility that individuals may inadvertently be included in the Qualified Voter File. Michigan residents deserve confidence that only eligible citizens are participating in these critical civic duties."