



OPEN DOORS: Unauthorized Entry of Non-Citizens onto New York's Voter Rolls

August, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project CIVICA's review of county voter-registration records has identified significant numbers of records carrying indicators of non-citizenship and raises serious questions about New York's voter-registration, agency-transmission, list-maintenance, and statewide database processes.

Key Findings

- Across **14 counties** (approximately 10% of the state's population), Project CIVICA identified approximately **10,680 records carrying non-citizen indicators**.
- Of these, **88 unique records contain voting history, some as recently as 2024 and 2025**, spread across 12 of the 14 counties.
- The records fall into two primary categories:
 - **Type 1** – County-determined non-citizenship: Approximately **463 records** contain a county status/reason code indicating the individual was determined to be a non-citizen. **34 of these records show voting history**.
 - **Type 2** – Negative citizenship response ("N"): Approximately **10,248 records contain an "N" in the citizenship field**. **57 of these records show voting history**.
 - Some records are **dual-flagged**, carrying both Type 1 and Type 2 indicators.
- The overwhelming majority of the flagged records are now purged, although some remain Active or Inactive.
- In some Type 1 records the "Voter Is Citizen" field still shows "Y." This may reflect that the original answer provided on the registration form was retained and not overwritten when the Board of Elections later determined the person was not a citizen.
- Detailed summary counts are provided in Appendix A.

Dominant Source of the Records

- In the most complete source field examined, **96% of the records originated from DMVI**.
- Across every available source field, **DMV/DMVI transactions dominate** (see Appendix B).
- This is the most significant system finding: thousands of applications that answered "N" (not a citizen) were still transmitted from the DMV into the election system.

- This risk is heightened by the interaction of two separate policies: New York’s Green Light Law, which issues standard driver’s licenses without requiring proof of citizenship or lawful presence, and the DMV’s transmission of voter-registration applications based largely on self-attestation. The Green Light Law itself does not require or authorize the transmission of voter registration applications from non-citizens.

Legal and Process Failures

- Under New York Election Law and regulations (including 9 NYCRR § 6217.5 and Part 6223), an application that answers “N” is incomplete. It should not be transmitted by the DMV or any designated agency, should not receive an SBOEID, and should not become a voter record.
- Despite these clear rules, the data show that large numbers of “N” applications were transmitted, accepted, processed, and in some cases assigned statewide identifiers and allowed to vote.
- When counties later cancelled registrations for non-citizenship, NYSVoter most often recorded the reason as **“Duplicate”** (or other codes like “Death” or “Moved”).
- New York’s regulations contain **no standardized non-citizen reason code** for NYSVoter. (see Appendix D) The available codes do not accurately reflect citizenship-based cancellation and **systematically obscure the actual reason for removal**.

Broader Implications

- These patterns raise substantial compliance questions under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), and New York Election Law and regulations.
- The problems appear at multiple stages of the registration pipeline: agency transmission, county acceptance and processing, statewide database coding, and preservation of the audit trail.
- The 14 counties represent only a fraction of the state (approximately 10% of the state’s population) . Many other counties do not release the fields necessary for comparable analysis. **The true statewide scale is almost certainly larger.**

Central Questions

- How did thousands of applications that answered “N” (not a citizen) get transmitted by the DMV into the voter registration system?
- How did some of those records receive statewide identifiers and voting history, some as recently as 2024 and 2025?
- Why does NYSVoter systematically record non-citizen cancellations mostly as “Duplicate”?
- Why isn’t there a non-citizen cancellation code at the state level?
- Can the State produce a complete audit trail for these records?