

Election Crackdown – DOJ Blitz Targets Noncitizen Ballots



The Justice Department charged 16 people in a nationwide sweep for illegal voting and related election crimes that target weak points in our system.

Story Highlights

- Justice Department announced charges against 16 people tied to illegal voting and registration across several states.
- Allegations include noncitizens voting in federal elections and false citizenship claims on voter forms.
- Seven noncitizens were charged in a separate Texas action, showing a wider push on enforcement.
- Defendants are presumed innocent; charges are allegations until proven in court.

Charges Target Noncitizen Voting and False Claims of Citizenship

The Department of Justice said on Sept. 18, 2026, that 16 individuals face charges for illegal voting, illegal voter registration, and related election-fraud schemes across the country. The department said the alleged conduct includes noncitizens voting in federal elections and people falsely claiming to be citizens on forms to register or vote. These crimes undermine clean rolls and trust in the count. Federal law bars noncitizens from voting in federal races and sets penalties for false statements tied to voting.

Federal prosecutors in the Northern District of Texas also announced that seven noncitizens were charged in a wider crackdown tied to unlawful voting or false claims of citizenship. That action shows a broader effort under President Trump to defend ballot integrity through targeted cases. Officials said these cases arise from joint work with federal agents and local partners. The charges aim to stop abuse before the 2026 races heat up and to show that lying on voter forms has clear consequences.

What The Announcements Do—and Do Not—Establish

The Justice Department press releases outline charges and alleged conduct, not verdicts. The department stated that complaints and indictments contain allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty. That legal standard guards due process while the courts sort facts. Even so, public filings give a clear signal: federal prosecutors are willing to bring cases when

evidence points to unlawful voting or dishonest registrations that erode faith in fair elections.

Past reviews by policy groups and media have claimed noncitizen voting is rare across millions of ballots, citing small counts in audits and studies. Those broad findings do not cancel current cases. Rather, they set a backdrop: even if the total is small, each illegal vote breaks the law and cancels an honest voice. Today's filings show a concrete set of cases with named defendants and specific charges. That is the proper arena to test the facts and, if proven, to deliver penalties that deter copycats.

Why This Matters for Election Integrity and Voter Confidence

Federal charges for illegal voting and false citizenship claims strike at weak links: registration honesty and eligibility checks. When noncitizens vote in federal elections, they violate clear federal law and chip away at public trust. When someone lies to register, they weaken the system that protects every lawful ballot. Strong enforcement helps clean voter rolls, warns would-be offenders, and backs up state officials who face pressure to look the other way. Voters deserve rules that are enforced.

Conservatives have called for proof that Washington will act, not just talk. These cases provide a trackable record: names, charges, and court dockets. Texans also saw a focused sweep that adds weight to the national push. Under President Trump, the Justice Department is moving to protect federal elections from

fraudulent registrations and illegal ballots. The next steps belong to the courts. If proven, convictions would affirm a simple rule: one eligible voter, one lawful vote—no exceptions.