

Florida Sues Federal Government, Seeking Data on Noncitizen Voters

The lawsuit alleges the federal government isn't cooperating with Florida's effort to purge noncitizens from its voter rolls.

By [Zachary Stieber](#)

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Florida authorities on Oct. 16 sued the U.S. government, alleging that U.S. officials are illegally refusing to cooperate with Florida's effort to remove noncitizens from its voter rolls.

State law requires state authorities to maintain accurate voter registration records. Federal law requires the federal government to respond to inquiries from federal, state, and local government agencies that are "seeking to verify or ascertain the citizenship or immigration status of any individual within the jurisdiction of the agency."

But when the Florida Department of State asked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for data on individuals whom Florida authorities identified as potentially being noncitizens who are registered to vote, USCIS's director [wrote](#) back and said the agency could not offer any information that is not contained within the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program.

Florida authorities have access to the program, but it is insufficient to check all possible noncitizens, according to the suit, because the program requires officials to have biographic information and an immigration identification number to check a person's citizenship status.

"Without further information from [the Department of Homeland Security], Florida is unable to fulfill its statutory duties to ensure the integrity of its elections and maintain accurate voter registration records," Florida **Attorney General Ashley Moody** and other state lawyers [said](#) in the complaint. "Florida's inability to carry out its statutory obligations inflicts sovereign injury upon the state."

The complaint was filed in federal court in Pensacola.

Florida authorities are asking the court to declare USCIS's refusal to provide information on the individuals illegal, compel U.S. officials to provide the information, and award Florida costs and attorneys' fees.

The suit is against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—the parent agency of USCIS—and the DHS secretary.

"Voting is a right granted to American citizens—not illegal immigrants or other noncitizens," Moody [said](#) in a statement. "The Biden-Harris administration has allowed millions of illegal immigrants into the country, and we must ensure that only citizens are on our voter rolls. I am taking legal action against the Department of Homeland

Security and Secretary [Alejandro] Mayorkas to ensure Florida is able to maintain the integrity of our state's voter rolls."

The suit did not specify how many potential noncitizens Florida authorities had identified. Florida authorities said in the filing that they will not publicly disclose information about the individuals but "should it be necessary to the resolution of this case, Florida is willing to file redacted information in an amended complaint or to provide the information to Defendants and the Court under a protective order."

A DHS spokesperson told The Epoch Times in an email that the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

"USCIS has engaged with Florida and will continue to correspond with them directly through official channels," the spokesperson also said.

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Featured image: Official photo of Attorney General of Florida Ashley Moody (From the Public Domain)

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