



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: House Bill 2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today I signed H.B. 2492.

Arizona has a proud history of making voting accessible. The state is a leader in secure mail-in voting, on-site early voting and allowing counties to establish voting day polling locations that best serve their communities. Arizonans also value election integrity, which can and should exist in tandem to, not in conflict with, access to the ballot box.

In 2004, Arizona voters displayed their desire to have secure elections with the passage of Proposition 200, which required evidence of citizenship in order to register to vote. Importantly, anyone who was registered to vote in Arizona prior to Prop 200's passage was deemed to have provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship and not required to resubmit evidence of citizenship. H.B. 2492 *does not* disturb the safe harbor granted to Arizona voters who registered to vote prior to Prop 200's passage.

What H.B. 2492 *does* address is a growing number of new registrants participating in elections who have not provided evidence of citizenship. In 2014, when the federal form was first used to register Arizona voters who failed to provide evidence of citizenship, a mere 21 voters statewide voted using that method in the primary election. In the 2020 general election, that number climbed to over 11,600. In just Maricopa County alone, there are currently 13,042 active registered voters who have not provided evidence of citizenship to vote through use of the federal form.

Federal law prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal elections. Arizona law prohibits non-citizens from voting for all state and local offices, *and* requires proof of citizenship. H.B. 2492 provides clarity to Arizona law on how officials process federal form voter registration applications that lack evidence of citizenship. Furthermore, H.B. 2492 ensures that the Attorney General's office has the data needed to properly determine if a person who has registered with the federal form is in fact a non-citizen. Under H.B. 2492, a person who registers with the federal form and who is found to not be a United States citizen will be prosecuted under our existing statutes.

Election integrity means counting every lawful vote and prohibiting any attempt to illegally cast a vote. H.B. 2492 is a balanced approach that honors Arizona's history of making voting accessible without sacrificing security in our elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Warren Petersen
The Honorable Nancy Barto