

MOTOR VOTER AT 30:

ALIENS ON CHICAGO'S VOTER ROLLS



IMMIGRATION
PARKING



MAY 2023



PUBLIC INTEREST
LEGAL FOUNDATION



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

Direct all responses by mail to the office listed below:
U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
[REDACTED]

Refer to this file: [REDACTED]

Alien Number: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

Officer: [REDACTED]

CONTINUANCE

Examination of your N400 application shows that additional information, documents or forms are needed before your application can be acted upon. Please return this letter with the requested information and/or documents by [REDACTED]

Failure to do so may result in the denial of your application.

Submission of this information, however, does not guarantee that this case will be approved. We strongly recommend that you submit all the requested information, documents, or forms as listed on the following pages as soon as possible so that we can resume processing. Any interim benefits that may otherwise stem from the filing of this application or petition will be delayed while this case is in suspense awaiting your response.

If you choose to submit only some or none of the requested information, then the application will be adjudicated on its merits. You may also request, in writing, to the Service that this application be withdrawn. If the district director consents to the withdrawal, the application will be denied without further notice to you and without prejudice to any future application. The withdrawal will constitute a waiver of any review pursuant to Section 336 of the Title 8 Code of Federal Regulations. If the district director does not consent to the withdrawal, then the application shall be adjudicated on its merits.

I am applying to: ☒ Register to vote in the State of Illinois ☐ Change my present voting address ☐ Change my name (marriage) **64308FN**

1. Last Name First Name Middle Name or Initial
[REDACTED] PILAR [REDACTED]
2. Address City/Village/Town Zip Code County Township
[REDACTED] CHICAGO 60625 [REDACTED] COOK
3. Mailing Address (P.O. Box) City/Village/Town/State Zip Code
4. Previous Voting Address City, State, Zip Code County 5. Previous Name (if changed)
6. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) 7. Sex 8. Telephone Number with Area Code (optional) 9. Application Number

10. Voter Affidavit - Read all statements and sign within the box to the right. If you check "No" to either questions, do not complete this form.
I swear or affirm that: I am a citizen of the United States. ☐ Yes ☒ No
I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election. ☒ Yes ☐ No

I will have lived in the State of Illinois and in my election precinct at least 30 days from the date of the next election. The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or if I am not a U.S. citizen, deported from or refused entry into the United States.

PHONE: 312-269-7900
CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTIONS
69 W WASHINGTON
SUITE 600
CHICAGO 60602

THIS IS MY SIGNATURE OR MARK IN THE SPACE BELOW

[Signature]

Date: 4-3-08

APR 09 2008

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chairwoman

WILLIAM J. KRESSE, Commissioner

JUNE A. BROWN, Commissioner

CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR. Executive Director



69 WEST WASHINGTON STREET

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(312)269 - 7900

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TTY (312)269 - 0027

WWW.CHICAGOELECTIONS.GOV

E-mail Address: CBOE@CHICAGOELECTIONS.GOV

Histories for [REDACTED] PILAR [REDACTED]

Election Date	Party	Voting Method
11/06/2012		In Precinct
03/20/2012	REP	In Precinct
02/22/2011		In Precinct
11/02/2010		In Precinct
11/04/2008		In Precinct

Motor Voter Still Adds Aliens to Voter Rolls

394 noncitizens cancelled from Chicago roll in recent years

Since 2007, Chicago city records show the sporadic removals of **394 foreign nationals** from the voter registration roll. From this group, **20 individuals** are recorded casting **85 ballots**. This is not an inventory of every non-citizen vote, but only those who informed election officials they were not an American citizen.

In Chicago, like many other places PILF has studied, it is not easy to find a single cause for the problem. Some disclosed records show immigrants were honest about their ineligibility but were registered anyway. One can fairly blame the immigrant or registrar (depending on the record), but the federal requirement to register at DMVs exacerbates the problem. After 30 years of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), Chicago shows why the country needs to discuss modernizing aspects of the law.

Core Figures

In 2018 and 2023, Chicago election officials disclosed to PILF datasets detailing cancellations of registrants due to citizenship eligibility.

- Total Cancellations for Non-Citizenship: 394
- Cancelled Records with History of Voting: 20
- Average Duration of Registration: 7.5 years
- Longest Single Period of Registration: 30 years
- Year with Most Registrations Created: 2018 (11)¹
- Year with Most Cancellations: 2019 (122)

Cancellations of Foreign Nationals	
2007	1
2009	3
2013	39
2014	75
2015	20
2016	38
2017	30
2018	35
2019	122
2020	12
2021	6
2022	7
2023	6

¹ Chicago records do not show dates of registration for 119 registrants.

Foreign Nationals Are Often Honest About Their Immigration Statuses at Registration

Some disclosed records were copies of voter registration paperwork such as registration forms. They allow PILF to see how citizenship eligibility questions were answered. When asked if the applicant is a U.S. citizen, foreign nationals clearly checked the NO option, yet were registered anyway.

FOR OFFICE USE 0413732

ILLINOIS VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

☒ New voter registration ☐ Voter registration change of name ☐ Voter registration change of address

PRINT CLEARLY

VRN (found in poll book for change of address)

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Will you be 18 years of age on or before the next general election? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Last Name First Name Middle Name or Initial Suffix (Circle One)
[REDACTED] UDEMBA Jr. Sr. II III IV

Address where you live (House No., Street Name, Apt. No.) City / County / State Zip Code
[REDACTED] CHICAGO IL 60467

Former Registration Address (include City, State and Zip) Former Name (if changed) Phone (optional) Email (optional)

Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY 11/08/1967 ☒ Female ☐ Male ☐ Non-binary ID number - check the applicable box and write down the appropriate number
☒ Driver's License or, if none, IL Sec. of State identification or
☐ Last 4 digits of Social Security Number xxx-xx-xxxx

Voter Affidavit - Read all statements and sign within the box to the right.
I swear or affirm that:
• I am a citizen of the United States;
• I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next general election;
• I will have lived in the State of Illinois and in my election precinct at least 30 days as of the date of the election;
• The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, then I may be fined, imprisoned, or if I am not a U.S. citizen, deported from or refused entry into the United States.

This is my signature or mark in the space below.
[Signature]
Today's Date: 11/7/22

Election Official sign here: [Signature]

GRACE PERIOD

8/19/1967

NOV 07 2022

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chairwoman

WILLIAM J. KRESSE, Commissioner

JUNE A. BROWN, Commissioner

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WWW.CHICAGOelections.gov

E-mail Address: CBOE@CHICAGOelections.gov

Histories for [REDACTED] UDEMBA

Election Date	Party	Voting Method
11/08/2022		Grace Period

Prior PILF research captured correspondence explaining, in immigrants' own words, that they believed voter registration applications were used to test their eligibility to vote. If they were honest about their foreign status and were still enrolled, then they could vote in the next election, they assumed. Electioneering for their votes by candidates cemented their misinterpretations.

One of the most damning examples of officials failing to keep foreign nationals off the rolls was when an immigrant honestly declared her status but mistakenly claimed her date of birth as the date of registration. This person failed the two most critical questions for establishing eligibility but was still registered for nearly a year before the errors were resolved.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? (check one)
Will you be 18 years of age on or before the next election day OR are you currently 17 and will be 18 by the day of the next General or Consolidated Election? (check one) Yes ☒ No ☐

You can use this form to: (Check One) ☐ apply to register to vote in Illinois ☐ change your address ☐ change your name

1. Last Name: [REDACTED] First Name: Eiman Middle Name or Initial: Suffix (Circle One) Jr. Sr. II III IV

2. Address where you live (House No., Street Name, Apt. No.) City/Village/Town Zip Code County Township

3. Mailing address (P.O. Box) City/Village/Town Zip Code County Township

4. Email (optional)

5. Former Registration Address: (include City and State and Zip Code) City/Village/Town Zip Code Former County

6. Former Name: (if changed)

7. Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY 05/10/2019

8. Sex (circle one) M ☒ F

9. Home telephone number, including area code (optional)

10. ID Number - check the applicable box and provide the appropriate number
☒ IL Driver's License or, if none, Sec. of State ID, or
☐ Last 4 digits of Social Security Number
☐ I have none of the above identification numbers

11. Voter Affidavit - Read all statements and sign within the box to the right.
I swear or affirm that:
- I am a citizen of the United States;
- I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election (or the next General or Consolidated Election);
- I will have lived in the State of Illinois and in my election precinct at least 30 days as of the date of the next election;
- The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, then I may be fined, imprisoned, or if I am not a U.S. citizen, deported from or refused entry into the United States.

2. If you cannot sign your name, ask the person who helped you fill in this form to print the name, address and telephone number.

Name of person assisting: Full Address: Telephone No:

This is my signature or mark in the space below.

Today's date: 05 / 10 / 2019

22421GB

5-28-19

MAY 23 2019

Printing Voter Applications in Foreign Languages

Unfortunately, multi-lingual election documents may only protect immigrants if officials are paying attention to basic details. Some of the disclosed application records were printed in Spanish, accurately denoted foreign citizenship, and were still accepted by election officials for registration. In both examples shown below, roughly a year passed for each record to be cancelled ahead of likely immigration proceedings.

Handwritten: Juan

¿Es usted un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos de América? (marque una) sí ☐ no ☒

¿Tendrá 18 años de edad el día de la elección o antes de la próxima elección? **¿O tiene ahora 17 años y cumplirá 18 antes del día de la próxima Elección General o Consolidada?** (marque una) sí ☐ no ☒

Si marcó "no" en respuesta a cualquiera de estas preguntas, entonces no complete esta forma.

Usted puede utilizar esta forma para: (Marque uno) ☐ aplicar para registrarse como votante en Illinois ☐ Cambiar su dirección ☐ Cambiar su nombre

1. Apellido: [Redacted] Nombre: Pedro Segundo Nombre o Inicial: [Redacted] Sufijo (Marque uno) Jr. Sr. II III IV

2. Dirección (No. de Casa, Nombre de la Calle, No. de Apto.): [Redacted] Ciudad/Aldea/Pueblo: CHICAGO Código Postal: IL 60622 Condado: COOK Municipio: [Redacted]

3. Dirección Postal (Apartado Postal): [Redacted] Ciudad/Aldea/Pueblo: [Redacted] Código Postal: [Redacted] 4. Correo Electrónico (Opcional): [Redacted]

5. Dirección de Registro Anterior: (incluya Ciudad, Estado y Código Postal) Condado Anterior: [Redacted] 6. Nombre anterior: (si cambió) [Redacted]

7. Fecha de Nacimiento: MM/DD/AA 01-19-93 9. Teléfono en casa incluyendo el código de área (opcional): [Redacted] 10. No. de identificación - marque la casilla que aplique y proporcione el número apropiado:
☐ Licencia de Conducir de IL, o si no, identificación de la Sec. Del Estado o
☐ Últimos 4 dígitos de su Número de Seguro Social
☒ No tengo ningún número de identificación

8. Sexo (Marque uno) ☒ M ☐ F

11. Declaración Jurada del Votante - Lea las declaraciones siguientes y firme dentro de la caja a la derecha. Juro o Afirmo que:

- Soy un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos;
- Tengo por lo menos 18 años antes de o el día de la próxima elección, o la próxima Elección General o Consolidada;
- Habré vivido en el Estado de Illinois y en mi distrito electoral por lo menos 30 días antes de la fecha de la próxima elección;
- La información que he proporcionado es verdadera hasta donde tengo conocimiento, bajo pena de perjurio. Si he proporcionado información falsa, entonces podría ser multado, encarcelado, o si no soy un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, deportado, o se me puede negar la entrada a los Estados Unidos.

Esta es mi firma o marca en el espacio siguiente. *Handwritten: MAY 28 2019*

Fecha de hoy: 5/17/19

12. Si no puede firmar su nombre, pídale a la persona que le ayudó a llenar esta forma que escriba su nombre, dirección y número telefónico.
 Nombre de la persona que le ayudó: [Redacted] Dirección Completa: [Redacted] No. Telefónico: [Redacted]

Condado o a los Comisionados de la Junta de Elecciones. (312) 814-6440 (o webmaster@elections.il.gov).

ESCRIBA CLARAMENTE CON TINTA NEGRA O AZUL

¿Es usted un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos de América? (marque una) sí ☐ no ☒

¿Tendrá 18 años de edad el día de la elección o antes de la próxima elección? **¿O tiene ahora 17 años y cumplirá 18 antes del día de la próxima Elección General o Consolidada?** (marque una) sí ☒ no ☐

Si marcó "no" en respuesta a cualquiera de estas preguntas, entonces no complete esta forma.

Usted puede utilizar esta forma para: (Marque uno) ☐ aplicar para registrarse como votante en Illinois ☐ Cambiar su dirección ☐ Cambiar su nombre

Nombre: Sara Segundo Nombre o Inicial: [Redacted] Sufijo (Marque uno) Jr. Sr. II III IV

2. Dirección (No. de Casa, Nombre de la Calle, No. de Apto.): [Redacted] Ciudad/Aldea/Pueblo: Chicago Código Postal: IL 60639 Condado: COOK Municipio: [Redacted]

3. Dirección Postal (Apartado Postal): [Redacted] Ciudad/Aldea/Pueblo: [Redacted] Código Postal: [Redacted] 4. Correo Electrónico (Opcional): [Redacted]

5. Dirección de Registro Anterior: (incluya Ciudad, Estado y Código Postal) Condado Anterior: [Redacted] 6. Nombre anterior: (si cambió) [Redacted]

7. Fecha de Nacimiento: MM/DD/AA 01-19-92 9. Teléfono en casa incluyendo el código de área (opcional): [Redacted] 10. No. de identificación - marque la casilla que aplique y proporcione el número apropiado:
☐ Licencia de Conducir de IL, o si no, identificación de la Sec. Del Estado o
☐ Últimos 4 dígitos de su Número de Seguro Social
☒ No tengo ningún número de identificación mencionado anteriormente.

8. Sexo (Marque uno) ☒ M ☐ F

11. Declaración Jurada del Votante - Lea las declaraciones siguientes y firme dentro de la caja a la derecha. Juro o Afirmo que:

- Soy un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos;
- Tengo por lo menos 18 años antes de o el día de la próxima elección, o la próxima Elección General o Consolidada;
- Habré vivido en el Estado de Illinois y en mi distrito electoral por lo menos 30 días antes de la fecha de la próxima elección;
- La información que he proporcionado es verdadera hasta donde tengo conocimiento, bajo pena de perjurio. Si he proporcionado información falsa, entonces podría ser multado, encarcelado, o si no soy un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, deportado, o se me puede negar la entrada a los Estados Unidos.

Esta es mi firma o marca en el espacio siguiente. *Handwritten: MAY 05 2019*

Fecha de hoy: 5/28/19

12. Si no puede firmar su nombre, pídale a la persona que le ayudó a llenar esta forma que escriba su nombre, dirección y número telefónico.
 Nombre de la persona que le ayudó: [Redacted] Dirección Completa: [Redacted] No. Telefónico: [Redacted]

Common Causes of Foreign Registrants

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter) provides the most common pathway to the voter roll. States that automate Motor Voter, not giving the immigrant the chance to decline registration during their DMV transactions, exacerbate the problem. Illinois began enforcing this kind of policy in 2018.² States giving driver's licenses to *illegal* immigrants only increase traffic to DMVs. Illinois implemented its law in 2013.³ States with higher amounts of *legal* immigration mean more driver's licenses or state IDs are needed for daily life. Border states by nature increase risks – especially if one has twin cities on both sides of the boundary. Finally, battleground states with increased third-party voter registration drives can expose unassuming immigrants to registration too early.

Chicago Alien Voting Factors	
Motor Voter	YES
Auto Motor Voter	YES
DLs for Illegals	YES
Legal Immigration	YES
Border State	NO
3 rd Party Drives	YES

The Lone Tool to Stop Foreign National Registration: Foreign Nationals

Contrary to popular belief or assumption, the federal government does not have an all-inclusive database election officials can query to identify non-citizens masquerading as citizens in voter rolls. Even the Department of Homeland Security's alien entitlements database known as SAVE has use restrictions.⁴ It also does not have every non-citizen in the United States. This leaves election officials waiting for non-citizens to out themselves – an act that can get them charged with a federal felony.

Foreign nationals typically expose themselves for one reason: they want to remain in the United States as future naturalized citizens. During that process, they face **questions**

² SB 1933 (2017)

³ S 957 (2012)

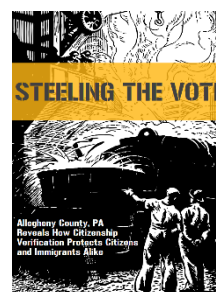
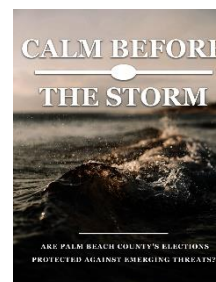
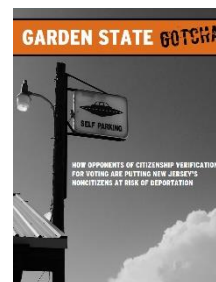
⁴ The Obama DHS set the requirement that Alien ID numbers are needed to query SAVE – something local officials would rarely have on file.

about premature registration and voting activities.⁵ If they have any records, they are often ordered by immigration officials to get said records cancelled. These cancel requests generate paper trails, which inform PILF research. Chicago officials told PILF during the document inspection process that legal immigration concerns were the driving cause for removals.

No matter the disclosed sample size of government records or geographic location, most foreigners are registered directly through Motor Voter. The process can be as simple as checking the wrong box or signing the wrong form handed to you by a state employee – sometimes in a different language.

Prior PILF Research, Litigation on Non-Citizen Voting Issues

For nearly a decade, PILF has harvested government records of non-citizen voter cancellations. These studies were carried out in places like Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Nevada, California, Texas, and sanctuary cities across the nation. Those reports are made available on the PILF website.⁶ Sometimes research cannot occur without litigation to unlock official records. PILF has brought and won federal trial and appellate court cases in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas to secure access.⁷ This campaign has made it easier to study non-citizen election participation than ever before in the Motor Voter era.



⁵ N-400 – Application for Naturalization (Expires November 30, 2025), <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/n-400.pdf>

⁶ PILF Reports archive, <https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/> SEE ALSO: <https://publicinterestlegal.org/issues/voter-roll-error-map/>

⁷ PILF litigation archive, <https://publicinterestlegal.org/cases/>

Motor Voter at 30: Time to Modernize

Motor Voter is showing signs of wear. It has made American elections on one hand less secure, while on the other hand more transparent. It created unforeseen consequences and failures worse than the opponents imagined. After 30 years, it is time for



Congress to do a serious and thoughtful reexamination of law. It has never been easier to register to vote and vote as it is in 2023. Yet, if an applicant fills out the federally mandated Motor Voter registration form, they must be registered to vote, period. States cannot seek documentary proof of citizenship before registering the applicant, unless the state goes through a complicated process of seeking federal approval. As it stands, only an honor system prevents non-citizens from easily registering to vote (unless officials fail to notice the “NO” on the citizenship question).

PILF President, J. Christian Adams

“On the 30th anniversary of Motor Voter, the law should be celebrated and updated. It has led to more transparency and federally mandated voter list maintenance of deceased and duplicate registrants. Unfortunately, it has led to thousands of foreign nationals registering to vote. Congress must update Motor Voter to fix this vulnerability in our elections.”

GET INVOLVED

The **Public Interest Legal Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, relies on contributions to conduct research and develop findings like those contained in this report.

PILF is the **only organization** performing this level of work with respect to voter registration system integrity in America. Time, travel, and technology help deliver new insights into our election systems to better educate citizens and policymakers alike. We also bring litigation to pry this public information from government officials when necessary. **None of this is possible without your support.**

Please help us expand our efforts by visiting publicinterestlegal.org to offer your fully **tax-deductible** gift today.



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