

# Election integrity bills have been filed to prohibit voting by noncitizens

By Bethany Blankley |  
The Center Square contributor  
Nov 4, 2024 –

A group of Republican lawmakers, led by U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-FL, have filed election integrity bills related to the border crisis.

Gaetz filed the “Judicial Action to Impose Liability for Alien Voters Act,” known as the JAIL for Alien Voters Act, to ensure that every illegal foreign national who un-

lawfully votes in federal elections faces enhanced criminal penalties.

Federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting. The bill would amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to increase the penalty to five years in prison or a \$10,000 fine, in line with penalties for U.S. citizens who unlawfully vote. Republican U.S. Reps. Andy Ogles of Tennessee, Andy Biggs of Arizona, Mike Collins of Georgia, Claudia Tenney of New York, and Barry

Moore of Alabama, cosponsored it.

Gaetz filed the bill after former President Donald Trump called for stiffer penalties for a range of crimes committed by illegal border crossers, including voting. He also filed it months after U.S. House Republicans passed the SAVE Act in July. The bill would increase penalties and expand protections for states related to noncitizens voting. The Democratic-controlled Senate did not consider it.

“President Donald Trump is right: illegal aliens who vote in our elections should be in jail,” Gaetz said. “It is unacceptable that illegal aliens get lighter sentences for defrauding our elections than U.S. citizens. My legislation, the JAIL for Alien Voters Act, will create parity in punishment for those who commit voter fraud, regardless of immigration status. It’s common sense that U.S. citizens should be the only ones voting in U.S. elections.”

Earlier this month, after the Biden-Harris Department of Justice sued the Commonwealth of Virginia for removing noncitizens, including illegal border crossers, from its voter rolls, Gaetz introduced the “National Motor Voter Clarification Act.”

Virginia was among several states that removed noncitizens from its voter roles. Groups sued,

See BILL Page 7A

# Moore: The yearly contests have been changed to reflect HOA strengths

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groups or students would come and pick up trash, trim trees, or whatever was needed. Owners were written several letters encouraging participation as a corridor. One of the people groups even contacted individual owners along the corridor. After receiving permission, members mowed and edged yards thereby upping the standard on the corridor. In one case, I had the county install

sidewalks, and the Apopka Professional Firefighter Union trimmed trees while county public works picked up the resulting debris. This collaboration produced transformational change along the northern portion of Sheeler Road.

Each year I add a new portion for the contest. Thus, in 2024, I added the Artistic Corridor of the Year(ACOY). Well, the “ACOY” didn’t turn into a competition, as I am simply donating funding to the

non-profit to host a block party. Another goal of this work is to bring people together to develop a stronger sense of place, or as author Peter Kageyama says, to “love where you live.”

For the first year, all four groups completed a major art project. I’m so proud of them. Here is the list of their major accomplishments:

People of Lockhart – “Roses on Rose” – the association painted more than three dozen roses on the

Tealwood Cove Subdivision fencing

People of Clarcona-Ocoee – “Coast-2-Coast Mural” – the association contracted with artist Delia Miller to paint a car-centric mural at the Rebel Gas Station Pond retaining wall at the northwest corner of Pine Hills and Clarcona Ocoee roads

People of Wekiwa Springs – “Welcome to Wekiwa Springs” Fence Art – the non-profit designed and installed “cup art” on the county’s pond fence

just east of the Sprouts at the Wekiva Riverwalk Shopping Center

People of Southern Apopka – “Sheeler Community Garden & Fence Art” - the new organization stained a fence, added art, painted stems, and planted sunflowers on a City of Apopka blighted property at the corner of Sheeler Road and Apopka Blvd. All four groups used their creativity to create unique projects reflective of their individual communities. Very impressive for the first

year of Artistic Corridor of the Year projects!

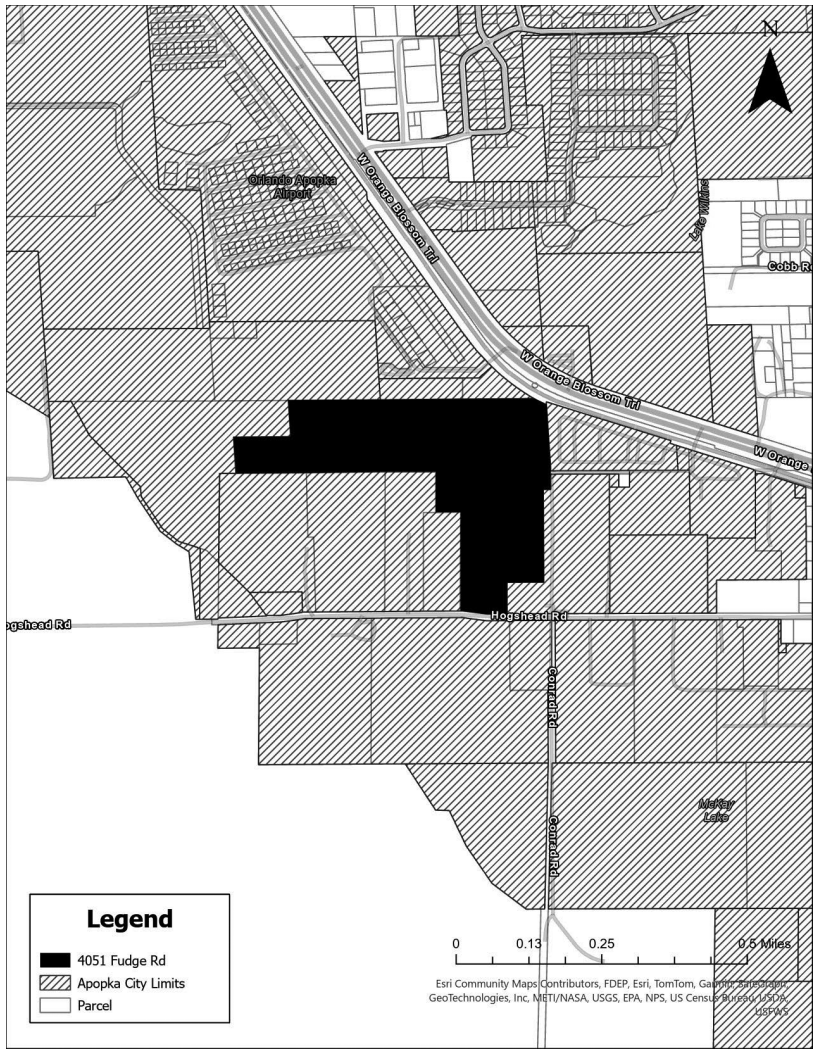
Together, we will celebrate the winner of the District 2 Person of the Year, Most Improved Neighborhood, and the 2024 Corridor of the Year at Wekiva High School on November 21st at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The special guest honoree will be Chief Meteorologist Tony Mainolfi. His hour-by-hour coverage on social media so positively aided District 2 residents during Hurricane Milton.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **JOHN TOWNSEND** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF “FOOD PROCESSING OR BEVERAGE BOTTLING” IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (I-L) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 4051 Fudge Road:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 35-20-27-0000-00-015  
Contains: 53.65 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024, beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

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# Byrd: My focus strengthens support

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nize the positive benefits of decisions because it helps them to be invested if they understand why rules are put in place.

They did share some challenges that I will also be sharing with the Superintendent and will work to address. Many of these surrounded staffing challenges that our district and districts across the nation are experiencing.

They are struggling with long-term substitutes in important classes that may not be teaching at the same level as a regular teacher, crowded and late buses because of our bus driver shortage, and the struggle to get appointments with school counselors because of their heavy workloads.

These are issues I hear at every high school I visit and I hear the same concerns from my fellow school board members across the state. Public school funding has to in-

crease so that districts can offer competitive wages to attract people to the field of education. If we don’t, our children are left feeling the effects of a reduced and overworked workforce and their education suffers just as these students shared with me this week.

The other big area of concern for these kids is their feeling of not being prepared well enough for the college application process, making plans after graduation and making sure everything is in place for graduation. They feel like they need more one-on-one mentoring and guidance about their options and the opportunities available to them.

This is a high priority for me and something I have been working on with the Superintendent. The choices available to our students in high school and beyond are vast, much more than many of us adults had when we were young.

There are so many

paths a student can take from dual enrollment in college courses or technical trades to advanced placement classes, to online classes and more. Navigating all those choices and choosing the right path is challenging with the best support.

For many of our children, who may not have parents who are able or willing to do the research, they are relying on the schools to help guide them and we have to do a better job in this area. We are working on different ways to achieve that and this discussion certainly inspired me to continue to pursue solutions.

As always, I left the school feeling impressed by our young people and their outlook and willingness to work on solutions.

We have great kids in our community and I’m so proud to be able to work every day to make their experiences better.

# Hayden: Thanksgiving is Godly event

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Remember what Khrushchev said about American government?

In one of his letters (Kruschev toured America, September 15-17, 1959), Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971) predicted, “We will take America without firing a shot.” Does it seem coincidental to you that the invasion of illegal aliens could end up fulfilling that prediction?

In 1941, the Japanese considered an invasion of our Pacific Coast, but after much consideration they decided against it because they knew that most of the

population was armed, and their loss of soldiers would be too great. So, they chose Pearl Harbor.

Not so today! This administration has welcomed illegal aliens from all over the world, even flying them into the United States under the cover of darkness, proving that they know the people (whom they have sworn to protect) of this great nation would not approve.

Legal immigration is a necessary endeavor, and people have been willing to undergo the difficulties involved with that process to become an AMERICAN, and to enjoy the freedoms we have because of our

Constitution, and the self-governing experiment set-up by our forefathers.

I am going to celebrate Thanksgiving this year by giving thanks, and praise to GOD for all the past, present, and future blessings. This nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and, whether you believe it or not, has no bearing on that fact!

GOD is in charge, He has never abdicated His throne, and Thanksgiving is the perfect time to let the rest of the world know how GOD has been active and encouraging in all our situations.

## ALL ABOUT APOPKA

### The Apopka Chief

Established 1923  
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group’s award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



#### City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall .....	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office .....	407-703-1701
City Administrator .....	407-703-1649
City Clerk .....	407-703-1704
Community Devel. ....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement .....	407-703-1738
Finance Dept. ....	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept. ....	407-703-1741
Police Chief .....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.) .....	407-703-1771
Job Line .....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance .....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing .....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. <b>www.apopka.net</b>	

#### Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept. ....	407-836-8550
County Mayor .....	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney .....	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue .....	407-836-3111
Solid Waste .....	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept. ....	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic .....	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept. ....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser .....	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative .....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities .....	407-836-5515
All other departments .....	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.) .....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson .....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore .....	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief .....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441