

A Dual Citizen's Right to Vote: A Comment on *Nicolas-Lewis v. Commission on Elections*

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The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003 (Republic Act No. 9189) and the Citizenship Retention and Re-Acquisition Act of 2003 (Republic Act No. 9225) both provided an interesting intersection of two complementary rights and duties: that of citizenship and suffrage. The potential for amassing votes renders this intersectionality unique and of interest to both citizens and politicians alike.

The case of *Nicolas-Lewis v. Commission on Elections* extended the right to vote to natural-born Filipinos naturalized under foreign jurisdictions but later on re-acquired their citizenship status under Philippine law.

This Comment revisits the constitutional right to vote, the relationship between sovereignty and suffrage, as well as the history and nature of suffrage. As a pre-requisite to the exercise of this right, the twin requirements of citizenship and residency must be complied with. Finally, the Author concludes with her analysis of *Nicolas-Lewis* and its effect of empowerment to Filipino citizens both here and abroad.