

# Italian American Conference of Presidents

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Italian American Museum of Cleveland  
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Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento  
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Little Italy Foundation  
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Louisiana Italian American Heritage Foundation  
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Nat'l Council for Promotion of Italian Language in  
American Schools, Inc.  
NJ Italian Heritage Commission  
Ohio ISDA Community Foundation, Inc.  
Pirandello Lyceum  
Pittsburgh Italian Scholarship Fund  
Pontelandolfo Community Club  
PRIMO Magazine  
San Francisco Italian Athletic Club  
San Francisco Italian Athletic Club Foundation  
Societa Cavalieri di Italia Philly  
Societa da Vinci  
The Italian Cultural Foundation at Casa-Belvedere  
The Justinian Forum  
Ulster County Italian American Foundation  
Unione E Fratellanza Oratinese  
World's Leading Personalities Organization

Giorgia Meloni  
Prime Minister of Italy  
Palazzo Chigi  
Piazza Colonna 370  
00186 Roma, Italia

April 15, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Meloni:

We write on behalf of the individual presidents of the 71 cultural, fraternal, charitable, educational and anti-defamation organizations that comprise the membership of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, COPOMIAO.org, to respectfully express our strong opposition to the sweeping decree that significantly restricts eligibility requirements to obtain Italian citizenship by descent.

The reason being given by Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani for the change is that there are over 60,000 pending applications for dual citizenship, and that the Italian government is trying to curb the recent surge in applications to root out “fraud” and “improper practices”. The vast majority of these pending applications are from only two countries, Brazil and Argentina. If restrictions or quotas are necessary to correct abuses, they should be placed on the residents of countries who have abused the process, not on Italian Americans living in the United States, who have not done so.

Historically, Italy sent over four million immigrants to the United States between 1880 to 1920, more than any other country in the world during that period. Today nearly all of the children and grandchildren of those immigrants are deceased, with only their great-grandchildren and their descendants remaining. The new decree will now prevent nearly all of the 18 million descendants of those immigrants from applying for dual citizenship.

This new decree is not just about passports. It's about heritage, identity and justice for millions of Italian Americans who have maintained a cultural and familial connection to Italy for generations. Italian Americans are extremely proud of their heritage, but this decree sends the uncomfortable message to us that our motherland is not equally proud to claim us, because it chooses to enact laws that will make it more difficult for Italian Americans to maintain their historical bond with Italy.

Please understand that we, the undersigned leaders of the Italian American community, respectfully request that this new decree be abolished so that the great-grandchildren and their descendants will once again be allowed to apply for dual citizenship.

Sincerely,



Basil M. Russo, President  
Italian American Conference of Presidents

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André DiMino, President  
Italian American One Voice  
Coalition



Jenifer Caito-Ellingson, President  
Little Italy Foundation



Diane Langello, President  
Long Island Society of  
Italian Americans, Inc.



Truby Chiaviello, Publisher  
PRIMO Magazine



Christopher Vaccaro, President  
Italian American Heritage Society  
of Long Island

*Domenic Amara*

Domenic Amara, President  
Pirandello Lyceum

*James Lisa*

James Lisa, President  
NYS Italian American Action  
Committee

*Robert Fonti*

Robert Fonti, President  
Italian American Action Comm.  
Lt. Detective J. Petrosino Assoc.  
in America



Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, President  
Italian American Museum, NY



Jerry Carleo, Chairman  
Colorado Italian American Fdtn.



Manuele La Torre, President  
San Francisco Italian American  
Athletic Club



Cav. Josephine Maietta, President  
Association of Italian American  
Educators, AIAE



Richard A. DiLiberto, Jr., President  
Italian Heritage and Culture



Saverio Nestico, President  
Filitalia International



Marianna Gatto, President  
Italian American Museum of LA

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*Gabriele DelMonaco*

Gabriele DelMonaco, President/CEO  
A Chance in Life

*Tony Ficarri*

Tony Ficarri, Nat'l Commander  
Italian War Veterans of the US

*Maria Fosco*

Maria Fosco, President  
Coalition of Italo American  
Associations

*Patrick Ross Campesi*

Patrick Ross Campesi, President  
Louisiana Italian American Heritage  
Foundation

*Cav. Pasquale Meola*

Cavaliere Pasquale Meola, President  
The Federation of Italian American  
Societies of New Jersey

*George Bochetto*

George Bochetto  
Bochetto/Lentz

*Charles Marsala*

Charles Marsala, President  
American Italian Federation of the SE

*Anthony Scuzorzo*

Anthony Scuzorzo, President  
Greenbriar Oceanaire Italian  
American Social Club

*David Esposito*

David Esposito, President  
Milford Columbus 500 Inc.

*Cav. Gilda Rorro*

Cav. Gilda Rorro, Ed.D.  
NJ Italian Heritage Commission

*Elisa Coccia*

Elisa Coccia, President  
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*Paul P. Panepinto*

Paul P. Panepinto, President  
Societa Cavalieri di Italia, PA

*Santi Buscemi*

Prof. Santi Buscemi, Vice President  
Italian American Legal Defense  
Fund Inc.

*Mark A. Nicotra*

Columbus Monument  
Corporation, Syracuse

*William Cerutti*

William Cerutti, President  
Italian Culture Society,  
Sacramento

*John Viola*

John Viola, Founder  
Italian American Future Leaders

*Patrick O'Boyle*

Patrick O'Boyle, President  
Italian American Podcast

*Ron Onesti*

Ron Onesti, President  
Joint Civic Committee of  
Italian Americans

*Brendan Young*

Brendan Young, Executive Director  
American Delegation of the Sacred  
Military Constantinian Order of St. George

*Dr. Daniel Stabile*

National Council for the Promotion of the Italian  
Language in American Schools

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*Angelo Cassaro*

Angelo Cassaro, President  
Italian American Club of Southern  
Nevada

*Patricia Santangelo*

Patricia Santangelo, President  
Italian Heritage and Culture Committee  
of the Bronx and Westchester

*Marie Frank*

Marie Frank, Representing President  
Ohio ISDA Community Foundation

*Tom Damigella*

Tom Damigella, Representing President  
Italian American Alliance

*Matthew Guarnieri*

Matthew Guarnieri, President  
Italian American Defense League of Connecticut