

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

Introduced Jan 03, 2025 By Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX 21) of the Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. Co-sponsored by 110 Republicans, with 53 original co-sponsors. No Democrats have signed on to this bill in the House.

April 10, 2025 House Passed the SAVE Act with 220-208 (yeas and nays)

Democrat YES votes were: Ed Case (HA-D 1); Henry Cuellar (TX-D 28); Jared Golden (ME-D 2); Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-D 3); George Norcross (NJ-D 1) No Vote (His corruption charges were dropped by a Superior Court judge the following month.

Summary: Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or the SAVE Act

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/22>

This bill requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.

Specifically, the bill prohibits states from accepting and processing an application to register to vote in a federal election unless the applicant presents documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. The bill specifies what documents are considered acceptable proof of U.S. citizenship, such as identification that complies with the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates U.S. citizenship.

Further, the bill (1) prohibits states from registering an individual to vote in a federal election unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of U.S. citizenship; and (2) requires states to establish an alternative process under which an applicant may submit other evidence to demonstrate U.S. citizenship.

Each state must take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote, which shall include establishing a program to identify individuals who are not U.S. citizens using information supplied by certain sources.

Additionally, states must remove noncitizens from their official lists of eligible voters.

The bill allows for a private right of action against an election official who registers an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

The bill establishes criminal penalties for certain offenses, including registering an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

Major Impacts:

- ◆ Disproportionately impacts married women, and Trans population — an estimated 69 million women and four million men have a birth certificate that does not match their legal name. Cordover, E. (04/18/25) “What the Save Act Means for Women” *Politico* <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/women-rule/2025/04/18/what-the-save-act-means-for-women-00298305>
- ◆ SAVE Act requires states to collect and document proof of citizenship, change voter registration processes, and provides no funding to perform these additional tasks.
- ◆ Creates the possibility of a bifurcated system such as Arizona’s, which has been criticized for lack of transparency, as each state would have a database for state and local elections and a federal database with the federal SAVE Act requirements — NCSL Owens-Hubler, K. (Mar. 27, 2025) “9 Things to Know About the Proposed SAVE Act If Passed” *NCSL State Legislatures News* <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/9-things-to-know-about-the-proposed-save-act>
- ◆ Bill includes a private right of action for individuals to sue elected officials if they feel they are not enforcing the law. (Ibid)
- ◆ States with stronger Motor Voter laws enacted are more impervious to disenfranchisement. (Ibid)

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What's Next?

A Similar bill to the SAVE Act H.R. 8281 passed in the House last year, but was defeated in the Senate. This bill was also included in CR; HR 9494 Continuing Resolution to avoid a government shutdown in March 2025, but failed to receive a vote.

This bill would require a 60 vote threshold in the Senate to make it filibuster-proof.

This requires that EVERY DEMOCRAT SENATOR vote NO as well as Independents that traditionally caucus with Democrats.

Proposed valid proof of citizenship to register to Vote

- ♦ Valid Passport, Real I.D. or military I.D.
- ♦ Birth Certificate
- ♦ Proof of Citizenship MUST INCLUDE birthplace

Passport Cost	\$130-236
Certificate of Citizenship	\$1,385
To change name on Birth Certificate (Depending on State)	\$100-400

. Cordover, E. (04/18/25) "What the Save Act Means for Women" *Politico* <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/women-rule/2025/04/18/what-the-save-act-means-for-women->

Donald Trump's Executive Order 14248 Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections — March 25, 2025

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/28/2025-05523/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections>

This Executive Order signed by Donald Trump has the same verbiage as the SAVE Act and was signed on March 27, 2025.

There have been legal challenges to this order including those led by the California Attorney General, Leave of Women Voters Education Fund, League of United Latin American Citizens and the Democratic National Committee all suing the Trump administration.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/> and type in EO 14248 in the search bar to track progress on these litigations.

There is also a bill introduced in the House by Rep. Hamadeh Abraham (R-AZ 8) to codify the Trump Executive Order H.R. 2499—119th Congress (2025-26) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2499/all-actions>. That bill is still in the Judiciary Committee.

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-your-senators-oppose-save-act> League of Women Voters Actions

<https://secure.brennancenter.org/secure/tell-your-senators-reject-save-act> Brennan Center for Justice

[Tell Congress: REJECT the "SAVE" Act](#) Common Cause