

The SAVE Act

What is the SAVE Act?

The SAVE Act stands for Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act. It was originally introduced in the US House in January 2025.

Other expanded versions are the SAVE America Act and Make Elections Great Again (MEGA). Every version of the SAVE Act has had a common throughline: requiring Americans to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections. For most people, this would likely mean a passport or birth certificate. While the bill lists other eligible documents that can prove citizenship, they may not meet the measure's requirements, said Sean Morales-Doyle, director of the voting rights and elections program at the <https://www.brennancenter.org>. Additionally, government issued photo ID will be required at the time of voting or when requesting or submitting absentee ballots.

<https://issueone.org/articles/explainer-save-america-and-mega-acts/>

This act also mandates states to verify voter rolls, including sharing data with federal agencies. Federal funding will be tied to compliance, and certified by the US Attorney General. The bill would also add criminal penalties for any election official who registers an applicant who fails to provide documentary proof of citizenship. Those penalties apply even if an individual is a U.S. citizen, said Rachel Orey, director of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Elections Project.

<https://www.bipartisanpolicy.org>

It passed the US House of Representatives twice in the past two years but has failed in the US Senate, without the necessary support to pass. There is ongoing, immense pressure on Congress from this administration for immediate approval with President Trump making various threats if it doesn't pass.

Why does it matter?

It appears that individual States' control of elections may be taken over by our federal government. Additionally, there will be barriers to many voters who lack specific documentation or ability to get to election offices, resulting in millions of people simply not voting. Among the groups at risk are women, rural populations, indigenous people, the elderly, and other minorities.

The administration, with the help of House Republicans, is inserting parts of their goals into various legislations with the hope of getting some passed. This is hard to track and creates confusion as well. The Save America Act and MEGA include further extensions of federal overreach and restriction on voting in the U.S. Ultimately, it could spell an end to free and honest elections.

<https://campaignlegal.org> article: "The SAVE Act Threatens All Voters"

Adding criminal penalties for election officials "risks creating an environment where election officials are almost overly compliant, taking a very hyper interpretation of the statute, which might mean that this process that is meant to be a fail-safe doesn't actually operate like one in practice because election officials don't have the protection that they would need to make that decision on a case-by-case basis," according to the Bipartisan Policy Center's Elections Project. It is one of the "most concerning gray areas" in the SAVE America Act because it gives "vague discretion" to an election official who could face a criminal penalty. Also the mandates are unfunded and will need

time and resources to implement.

[How the SAVE America Act would make major changes to voting](#)

A one-year lead is the “optimal” amount of time for states to implement a new policy or procedure, according to recommendations released by The Bipartisan Policy Center, following the 2020 election.

How urgent is the threat?

The threat is looming at all times. Although it passed twice in the US House, it has failed in the US Senate and the House is finding new ways to re-introduce it. As an example, on July 22, 2026, House Republicans attached parts of the SAVE America Act directly to the defense and funding packages to pressure the Senate; it passed the House and now waits in the Senate for approval.

<https://thehill.com/hilltv/5942763-rising-july-1-2026/>

In addition to the SAVE Act (and related legislation), there are states that have SAVE Act legislation, either historically or enacted in the past two years:

Historic SAVE-like legislation: Arizona and Georgia

SAVE-like legislation passed since last election: South Dakota,
Wyoming, Utah, Kansas, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi,
Louisiana, Florida

SAVE-like proposed legislation: Iowa, Missouri,
Michigan

[The SAVE Act May Be Stalled in Congress but Versions Are Being Advanced All Across the Country](#)

Washington State has no plans to implement the SAVE Act.

What can we do?

Make our views known to our Federal Representatives and Senators. In our area, contact:

U.S. Senate: Maria Cantwell (D-WA) 202-224-3441

Patty Murray (D-WA) 202-224-2641

U.S. House of Repr: Emily Randall (D-WA) 202-225-5916

5 CALLS - <https://5calls.org> Maintains a listing of important issues, showing various, easy and up to date ways you can take action.

Additionally, we can follow, join and/or support groups that are working to ensure safe and honest elections, both in our local communities and nation-wide. It is also important to stay informed and take action to voice our opinions. Being with like-minded people offers hope for the future. Together we are strong.

Engendering hope

While pressure continues, there are some glimmers of hope. For this year, experts say it is too late for the SAVE Act to influence the mid-term elections, even if it does pass. Also, a few Republicans are refusing to bend to Trump's pressure, resulting in failure to pass. The Senate Parliamentarian has blocked measures from SAVE as they do not fit the rules of the bills they are attached to. Public approval of Trump's performance is decreasing.

*****Miscellaneous Source Information*****

Media Watchdogs: There are “media watchdogs” which rate online sites for media bias as well as factual reporting. Among them are: [Ad Fontes Media](#) [Vote Smart](#) [Ground News](#) [AllSides](#) [Ballotpedia](#) [Media Bias/Fact Check](#)

Information/News Sources

[ballotpedia.org](#) - (center) digital encyclopedia of American politics/elections.

[bipartisanpolicycenter.org](#), (center) helps leaders bridge divides and find bipartisan solutions to our nation’s most pressing issues.

[brennancenter.org](#) - (left leaning) non-partisan law and policy organization working to reform, revitalize, and defend democracy and justice [campaignlegal.org](#) - non-profit, non-partisan legal watchdog

Center for American Progress - [www.americanprogress.org](#) (left of center) non-partisan

Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR) - [electioninnovation.org](#) (Nonprofit working with election officials to ensure election integrity)

Common Cause - [commoncause.org](#) (left of center, highly factual)

CSPAN - [www.c-span.org](#) (least biased, highly factual)

Democracy Docket - [www.democracydocket.com](#) (left leaning, factual) **Election Line** -

[electionline.org](#) (non-partisan news focusing on elections) **Federal Voter Assistance Program** - [www.fvap.gov](#) Federal site/program which works to ensure overseas US citizens can vote.

Heritage Foundation - [www.heritage.org](#) (clear right wing, mixed factually)

Hill, The - [thehill.com](#) (least biased, mostly factual)

Issue One - [issueone.org](#) (center) think tank/policy group source

League of Women Voters - [lww.org](#) non-partisan organization protecting voting rights.

[pewresearch.org](#) - (center) non-partisan American think tank, providing information on social issues, public opinion, and demographic trends shaping the US and world.

Propublica - [www.propublica.org](#) (left of center) nonprofit exposing corruption

U.S. Congress - [congress.gov](#) (?- changing...

[FactCheck.org](#) - slightly left, factual

NPR Fact checking - [www.npr.org](#) - left of center, highly factual [Politifact.com](#) - left leaning

Snopes [www.snopes.com](#) – factual

Washington Post [www.washingtonpost.com](#) - Fact Checker - left leaning, mostly factual