



# Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

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DGR General Membership Meeting

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act**

Bill proposes requiring individuals to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, when registering to vote in federal elections.

While proponents argue that the bill would strengthen election integrity, opponents warn of significant negative consequences, particularly for marginalized communities and the integrity of the voter registration process.

**Introduced in House (01/03/2025) (H.R.22)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Roy, Chip [R-TX-21]**

**Cosponsored By 88 Republicans and 2 Democrats**



# Key Concerns

## 1. Barriers to Voter Registration

- Many eligible voters, including **women** who have changed their names due to marriage or divorce, low-income individuals, and young voters, may not have immediate access to required documents.
- **Naturalized citizens** who lack easy access to their citizenship paperwork may face delays or be unable to register in time.

## 2. Disenfranchisement of Marginalized Communities

- **Rural voters** could struggle due to the need for in-person document submission, often requiring long travel times to registration offices.
- Voter suppression concerns rise, as historically marginalized communities, including **people of color and transgender individuals**, may be disproportionately affected by restrictive registration requirements.

## 3. Increased Burden on Election Officials & State Governments

- There is no existing federal database to verify citizenship, leaving state election offices to figure out how to implement the new rules.
- The act does not provide funding to help states enforce these requirements, which could lead to delays and administrative complications.



# Key Concerns

## 4. Legal & Constitutional Challenges

- The bill could face legal opposition based on past Supreme Court rulings that have struck down similar state-level laws, such as *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona* (2013).
- Potential lawsuits could delay implementation, creating confusion and inconsistency in voter registration processes.

## 5. Minimal Evidence of Widespread Voter Fraud

- Studies show that non-citizen voting is extremely rare, raising questions about whether the bill is necessary.
- Critics argue that the SAVE Act may do more harm by preventing legitimate voters from participating rather than stopping fraud.

# Summary / Additional Resources

While the SAVE Act is framed as a measure to secure elections, its practical effects could make it harder for many eligible Americans to vote. Instead of strengthening democracy, it risks creating unnecessary barriers, particularly for already underrepresented communities. States may also face logistical and financial challenges in enforcing these new requirements, further complicating the election process.

Ongoing debates will determine the bill's future, but it remains a highly controversial measure with potentially serious consequences for voter access and election administration.

**[H.R.22 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): SAVE Act." Congress.gov, Library of Congress, 3 January 2025, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/22.](https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/22)**

**[GOP pushes ahead with citizenship voting bill. Some state election officials say it's problematic | AP News](#)**

**[The SAVE Act Would Force Many Rural Americans To Drive Hours To Register To Vote - Center for American Progress](#)**

