

FACTS BEHIND THE SAVE AMERICA ACT

The SAVE America Act would require documented proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote, routine maintenance of voter rolls, and require photo identification to vote in federal elections. On February 11, 2026, the bill passed the House of Representatives 218-213 and is now under consideration in the Senate.

Did you know?...

- The bill [prohibits](#) a state or local election official from providing a ballot for a federal election to an individual who does not present valid physical photo identification.
- [Each state would be required](#) on an ongoing basis to ensure that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote. This includes establishing a program to identify individuals who are not U.S. citizens using information supplied by certain sources.
- Under [current voter registration](#) processes, applicants generally do not have to provide documentary proof of citizenship. Instead, applicants attest to citizenship under penalty of perjury. Plus, there's currently no uniform method for verifying absentee votes.
- On March 15, 2026, Senator Chuck [Schumer](#) [said](#): “Not a single Democrat will support the SAVE Act. It is a radical bill.” He also called it “a voter suppression bill.”



What is the SAVE America Act all about?

The SAVE America Act would require proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Documented proof of U.S. citizenship is defined as identification that complies with the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates U.S. citizenship, including a valid U.S. passport or a valid government-issued photo identification card that shows the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

Facts Behind the SAVE America Act

Executive Summary

The [SAVE America Act](#) would require documented proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote, routine maintenance of voter rolls, and require photo identification to vote in federal elections. On February 11, 2026, the bill passed the House of Representatives 218-213 and is now under consideration in the Senate.

Currently, standards around voter registration, voter ID, absentee voting requirements, and maintenance of voter rolls vary from state to state.

Senate Democrats are uniformly opposed to the legislation, and number of Democratic Senators have publicly spoken out against the bill.

SAVE America Act

Voter Registration Requirements

- The [SAVE America Act](#) would require proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Documented proof of U.S. citizenship is defined as identification that complies with the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates U.S. citizenship, including a valid U.S. passport or a valid government-issued photo identification card that shows the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.
- In the event of a name discrepancy in the applicant's documentation, [states would be required](#) to accept and process the voter registration application as long as the applicant provides additional documentation. Additionally, states would be required to establish an alternative process to demonstrate U.S. citizenship.

Voter Identification

- The bill [prohibits](#) a state or local election official from providing a ballot for a federal election to an individual who does not present valid physical photo identification.
- An individual who does not present the required identification [must be permitted](#) to cast a provisional ballot. An election official can determine eligibility only if the individual presents the identification required or an affidavit attesting that the individual does not possess the identification because of a religious objection to being photographed. This must occur no later than three days after casting the provisional ballot.

Absentee Voting Requirements

- [Absentee voting](#) would require a ballot be cast with either a copy of their photo identification, or the last four digits of their Social Security number with an affidavit attesting that the individual is unable to obtain a copy of a valid photo identification after making reasonable efforts to obtain a copy.
- This prohibition [shall not apply](#) to overseas military voters or individuals provided the right to vote other than in person under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.

- State and local government officials [must provide free public access](#) to a digital imaging device so individuals can a copy of their valid photo identification.

Maintenance of Voter Rolls

- [Each state would be required](#) on an ongoing basis to ensure that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote. This includes establishing a program to identify individuals who are not U.S. citizens using information supplied by certain sources.
- [Each state must submit](#) its complete official list of eligible voters to the Department of Homeland Security for comparison with the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system, which is used to verify immigration status. Individuals who are identified as noncitizens must be given the opportunity to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.
- [States must remove noncitizens](#) from their official lists of eligible voters.

Current Facts About Voting

Voter Registration Requirements

- Under [current voter registration processes](#), applicants generally do not have to provide documentary proof of citizenship. Instead, applicants attest to citizenship under penalty of perjury.

Voter ID Laws Across The Country

- The [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) categorizes voter ID laws by Strict Voter ID, Strict Non-Voter ID, Non-Strict Voter ID, Non-Strict, Non-Voter ID, and states with no voter ID laws.
- **Strict Voter ID:** The following states require voters without acceptable photo identification to cast a provisional ballot and also take additional steps after Election Day for it to be counted. These states include Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.
- **Strict Non-Voter ID:** The following states don't require photo ID, but do require alternative identification such as a bank statement with name and address or another document that does not necessarily have a photo. If a provisional ballot is cast, additional steps after Election Day must be taken for it to be counted. These states are Arizona, North Dakota, and Wyoming.
- **Non-Strict Voter ID:** The following states have some form of voter ID laws, but at least some voters without acceptable identification have an option to cast a ballot that will be counted without further action on the part of the voter. These states include Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia
- **Non-Strict, Non-Voter ID:** The following states don't require photo ID, allowing for other forms of identification, and some voters without acceptable identification have an option to cast a ballot that will be counted without further action on the part of the voter. These states are Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, and Washington

- **No ID Requirements:** The following states have no laws that require any form of identification to cast a ballot: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington, D.C.

Absentee Voting Requirements

- Currently, there's no uniform method for verifying absentee votes.
- [Thirty states](#) conduct signature verification on returned absentee/mail ballots, where an election official examines each signature and compares it to other documents in their files that contain the voters signature. These states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington and West Virginia.
- [Nine states](#) verify that an absentee/mail ballot envelope has been signed but do not conduct signature verification. They are Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and Washington D.C.
- [Eight states](#) require the signature of a witness in addition to the voter's signature. These states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina and Wisconsin.
- [Three states](#) require the absentee/mail ballot envelope to be notarized. These states are Mississippi, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Maintenance of Voter Rolls

- Voter-roll maintenance is primarily administered by states. This maintenance is bounded by federal law, [for example](#), "States must complete any program that systematically removes the names of ineligible voters from the official list of eligible voters no later than 90 days before a primary election or general election for federal office."

Senate Opposition to the SAVE America Act

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senate Democratic Leader

- On March 15, 2026, [Schumer](#) said: "Not a single Democrat will support the SAVE Act. It is a radical bill." He also called it "a voter suppression bill."
- [Schumer](#) also said Senate Republicans are "helping Donald Trump disenfranchise millions of Americans and undermine democracy by pushing this despicable SAVE Act."
- [Schumer](#) said that requiring states to share voters' information with the Department of Homeland Security would allow DHS to "purge tens of millions of people from the voter rolls."

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senate Democratic Whip

- On March 13, 2026, [Durbin](#) said: "Do not let the bill's name fool you, the SAVE America Act would not protect our elections. Instead, it would make it more difficult for millions of Americans to vote by

upending decades of successfully administered and secure elections with untested, dangerous limitations on voter registration.”

Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Rules Committee

- On April 7, 2025, [Padilla](#) said, “The bill threatens to disenfranchise millions of eligible American voters by creating overly burdensome documentation requirements, making voting harder for new voters, married women, rural voters, and the tens of millions of Americans who register to vote online or through the mail.”

Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) And Ron Wyden (D-OR)

- In May 2025, Senators Schatz, Wyden, and Padilla wrote a [letter](#) to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum warning that the SAVE Act would “lead to mass disenfranchisement of eligible Native voters and further depress the Native vote.”