

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (“SAVE Act”) (H.R. 22)

One Pager

- The SAVE Act applies to every American citizen and its burdens are extreme—**most Americans would be unable to register to vote using their driver’s license or other state-provided identification alone.**
 - Millions of Americans, including tens of thousands of people in each congressional district, would be prevented from registering to vote easily, if at all.
- **The SAVE Act is a federal takeover of state election administration** that would amend the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) to mandate states to require **every American citizen** to provide burdensome documentary proof of citizenship (“DPOC”) to register to vote in federal elections.
 - These provisions apply to all new registrants across the United States—including already-registered voters who update their registration as the result of a move, name change, or party switch.
- **Americans would not be able to register to vote with their driver’s license**—REAL IDs *do not* meet the SAVE Act’s requirements of showing a holder’s citizenship, and noncitizens may legally hold REAL IDs.
 - Americans would **not** be able to register using **military IDs** or **Tribal IDs** alone.
 - People who have changed their names, **including an estimated 69 million married women** across the United States, would be unable to use their birth certificates to prove their citizenship.
- **The SAVE Act would make Americans’ lives more expensive.**
 - Because only 51 percent of Americans have a passport, millions of citizens would need to obtain passports—which cost \$130—just to register to vote. **This could cost Americans over \$19 billion.**
- The SAVE Act would disallow states from accepting the NVRA’s mail voter registration application unless the applicant presents DPOC **in person** at the office of an appropriate election official.
 - The SAVE Act would essentially gut mail and online voter registration and **would prevent servicemembers deployed overseas from registering to vote at all.**
 - This would effectively **end automatic voter registration nationwide.**
- The SAVE Act would require individuals living in states with same-day voter registration to bring DPOC to the polling place to register and vote at the same time.
 - This would pose a significant burden to American voters, most of whom do not show up to their polling places with their passports or birth certificates.
- The SAVE Act would lead to **purges of eligible voters** based on faulty citizenship information, including from state agency databases containing unreliable citizenship data.
- The SAVE Act would **subject election officials** to hefty criminal fines and up to **five years in federal prison** for simple mistakes.
 - Local officials could face felony charges for failing to check DPOC even if the official knows the registrant—perhaps a neighbor, friend, or family member—to be an American citizen.
- The SAVE Act would require federal agencies to respond to citizenship data requests from local election officials about new registrants—potentially numbering in the hundreds of thousands—**within 24 hours.**
 - Given the short turnaround time, this process would be rife with flaws, and a federal agency’s failure to timely provide the information could lead local officials to refuse to register eligible American citizens to vote rather than risk criminal charges.
- Republicans want to make the voter registration process more burdensome than a DMV visit—the SAVE Act would turn voter registration into a **bureaucratic headache** for every American citizen.