

Congress Should Oppose the SAVE Act

Urge your Members of Congress to vote “No” on the SAVE Act

CALL AND WRITE ABOUT IT NOW:

- **Senator Adam Schiff (202) 224-3841**, or <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/contact/>
- **Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553**, or <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>
- Find your [Congressional Representative](#) to tell them to **vote NO** on this absolute train wreck for democracy.

The nonpartisan [NonprofitVOTE](#) recommends one of the two messages below:

[Long Version: Click here](#)

[Short Version: Click here and scroll down](#)

The full House may vote imminently! The time to act is now!

WHY TAKE ACTION? The SAVE Act Is An Attack on the Right to Vote

“Voting is power,” Gilda Daniels, former deputy chief in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, [told Global Citizen](#) in August 2020. “Voting is about: Who is the sheriff? Who is the district attorney? Who is the mayor? Who decides where the money goes? What communities are improved? That’s power and those decisions are determined by who gets to vote.”

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22/S.128) is the latest, most widespread effort to disenfranchise millions of voters by requiring eligible voters to re-establish their right to cast a ballot. The nonpartisan Center for American Progress [notes](#) that the act would “**require all Americans to prove their citizenship status by presenting documentation—in person—when registering to vote or updating their voter registration information.** Specifically, the legislation would require the vast majority of Americans to rely on a passport or birth certificate to prove their citizenship. . . . [M]ore than 140 million American citizens do not possess a passport and as many as 69 million women who have taken their spouse’s name do not have a birth certificate matching their legal name.”

On the surface, this may seem like due diligence to ensure that there is no voter fraud. However, as the [Campaign Legal Center notes](#), the intent is to create an onerous system of identification requirements designed to cause processing delays and, ultimately, discourage voters from registering. These delays could cost them the ability to vote in the next election.

Methods of Voter Suppression

There are many [types of voter suppression](#):

Purging of eligible voters from the rolls:

- Database matching (using lists of ineligible voters and matching their similar names to legitimate registrants as a rationale for removing them from the voter rolls)
- [Caging lists](#) (a process of targeting registered voters for removal from the rolls)
- Purges conducted by staff

Hurdles to casting a ballot:

- Limitations on early and absentee voting
- Identification requirements
- Long lines and wait times when voting (created by limited polling places and/or hours)

False information

- Voting procedure disinformation
- Candidate impersonation

What the SAVE Act Would Do

The SAVE Act would suppress voting by enacting:

- Voter roll purges
- Elimination of online voter registration
- A requirement that eligible voters register in person, which would result in lines at registrars' offices, especially in cities and counties with large populations
- A de facto poll tax imposed through the cost to secure a certified copy of one's birth certificate or pay the fees associated with getting a passport

The potential for increased costs to state and county registrars is obvious, since additional resources would be needed to process in-person applicants and update voter rolls. ALL voters who want to update anything on their registration will be required to jump these hoops, not just new registrants. The taxpayers and residents of a state or county could see funds being diverted from critical services, all in an attempt to fix a "problem" for which there is little to no evidence.

In August 2018, Senator [John R. Lewis noted](#) the rise in voter discrimination since the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby v. Holder* (2013), which nullified Section 4b of the Voting Rights Act, thus deactivating Section 5: "Thousands of people of color are being systematically denied access to the ballot box, many of whom have voted all their lives." Please see the next page and take action to stop Congress from enacting the SAVE Act. Every eligible citizen should be able to vote!

—Martha Y. Zavala, Chair, Advocacy Committee