

# The SAVE Act is Bad for Democracy – Not Its “Savior”

*Accessing the documentation required by the SAVE Act would create substantial obstacles for eligible voters –not protect them. Acquiring ID documents is expensive, time-consuming, complicated, and a barrier to voting.*

## WHAT IS THE SAVE ACT?

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE Act (HR. 22), is a voter suppression bill that would require all Americans to show a document such as their birth certificate or passport proving their US citizenship in order to register or re-register to vote.

## The SAVE Act isn’t about safeguarding elections – it’s about silencing voters

There are already federal and state laws in place to protect election access and integrity. Research shows that noncitizen voting is glaringly nonexistent. Those who violate the law already face severe penalties including jail time and deportation. **False claims about voter fraud should not be used to justify legislation that silences voters.**

The SAVE Act actually does nothing to safeguard our elections. **Instead, it would make voter registration much harder for American citizens and increase the risk that eligible voters are removed from voter rolls – disenfranchising millions.**

## QUICK FACTS

**150 Million**

US citizens **DO NOT** have a passport

**21.3 million eligible voters**

(That’s 1-in-10 voting-aged citizens) Do **NOT** have **easy access to documents that prove their citizenship** – like a birth certificate or passport

**13%**

of American citizens do **NOT** have **ready access to their birth certificates**

**Many Americans lack a birth certificate OR passport with their current legal name on it**

**1 ELDERLY VOTERS** who were born outside of hospitals and never received a birth certificate

**2 MARRIED WOMEN** who no longer have documents that match their legal name

**3 US CITIZENS** without the time or financial resources needed to replace lost or stolen documents

**REPEATING HISTORY** When Kansas and Arizona implemented proof of citizenship requirements, tens of thousands of eligible American citizens were blocked from registering to vote.

**PURGING VOTER ROLLS** The SAVE Act includes measures that would mistakenly flag lawfully registered US citizen voters as ineligible – causing confusion, delays, disenfranchisement, and potentially having them turned away at the polls.

**TARGETING ELECTION OFFICIALS** The risk of criminal and civil penalties under the SAVE Act could cause election officials–hardworking, bipartisan civil servants–to deny voter registration applications from eligible citizens and further intensify dangerously high turnover rates among election officials.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**



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