

Voter Suppression Legislation

What are the voter suppression bills?

Three bills have been introduced into Congress that, together, are a direct attack on voting rights in the United States. Despite their seemingly innocuous names, all three of these bills would implement documentation requirements making it harder for eligible Americans to register and vote. These bills are especially harmful for young people, people of color, low-income people, and people who've changed their names at some point in their lifetime.^[1] The bills include:

- **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act** ([H.R.22](#) - [S.B. 128](#)) – This bill would require documentary proof to register to vote in federal elections, such as a passport or birth certificate to vote in federal elections. The bill passed the House and stalled in the Senate.^[2] The Save Act is sponsored by Representative Chip Roy (R-TX) in the House of Representatives and in the Senate by Senator Mike Lee (R- UT).
- **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act** ([H.R.7296](#) - [S.B 3752](#)) This bill is an expanded version of the SAVE Act that adds a photo ID requirement to vote, not just to register. The SAVE America Act aims to narrow accepted IDs including prohibiting the use of Student IDs. Tribal IDs can only be accepted if they have an expiration date (many do not). This bill passed the House early in 2026 and requires 60 votes in the Senate to advance.^{[3][4]}
- **The Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act** ([H.R. 7300](#)), [introduced by Rep. Bryan Steil \(R-WI\)](#). A Senate companion bill has not been introduced. The MEGA Act aims to go far beyond the SAVE Acts by banning universal vote-by-mail, banning ranked choice voting, requiring monthly voter roll purges, and demanding proof of both citizenship and residence to register to vote.^[5]

Who are these bills actually meant to stop?

Non-citizen voting in federal elections has been illegal since 1926. When people register to vote now, they already attest to citizenship under penalty of perjury. Lying is a federal crime that can lead to prison or deportation. Because of these high stakes, non-citizen voting is statistically almost non-existent. Utah recently completed one of the most comprehensive citizenship reviews ever conducted at the state level, examining more than 2 million registered voters, and found only one confirmed instance of noncitizen registration.^[6]

Yet according to the Brennan Center for Justice, more than 21 million eligible American citizens do not have ready access to a passport, birth certificate, or naturalization papers.^[7] Roughly half of Americans don't even have a passport. Millions don't have easy access to a paper copy of their birth certificate.^[8] Further, these bills also target people who've changed their name throughout their lives. Common examples of reasons for name changes include: gender transition, adoption, marriage, divorce, hyphenation, and blending of family names, among others. Our voting system works, and these bills aim to make voting less accessible all around.

What is the Impact of these Bills?

Compounded, these three bills would:

- Bar millions of Americans voting. Every voter, including those already registered, would need to present a passport, birth certificate, or naturalization certificate in person. More than 21 million eligible voters do not have these documents readily available. This requirement essentially becomes a modern-day poll tax for people who need to pay for or travel to obtain this documentation.^[9]
- Effectively end mail and online voter registration. In 2022, more than 7 million Americans registered by mail and nearly 11 million registered online. These bills would make those pathways nearly impossible, and end voter registration drives at college campuses and community events.^{[10][11]}
- Mandate voter roll purges using a flawed federal database. The bills require states to run voter lists through a DHS system with a history of erroneously flagging U.S. citizens as non-citizens. If the system makes a mistake, the person's right to vote is on the line and their ability to course correct could impact their ability to vote.^[12]
- Criminalize election workers. Officials who register as an eligible citizen but fail to collect the correct paperwork could face civil and criminal penalties, including up to five years in prison.^[13]

Why URGE Opposes Voter Suppression Bills

URGE opposes the SAVE Act, SAVE America Act, and MEGA Act because they are a direct attack on our Young People's Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda: *Realizing the Potential of Our Democracy*. Specifically, our call to end voter suppression measures, make it easier to vote, and dismantle the undemocratic institutions and policies that have historically locked our communities out of the political process. These bills impose solutions to a problem that data shows do not exist and in doing so, risks disenfranchising millions of eligible American citizens. Research shows that about 24% of Americans under 30 do not have ready access to the documents

these bills require.^[14] Young voters who move frequently to college, to new cities, to new opportunities, would need to re-present their documents every time they update their registration. People who have changed their names often find that their documents don't match, creating yet another barrier to exercise a constitutional right.^[15] And people with low incomes, who cannot afford the \$160+ cost of a passport or the time off work to obtain records, could find these barriers insurmountable and not vote as a result. The U.S. Constitution was amended specifically to prevent these kinds of barriers: the 15th Amendment protected the vote for people of color, the 19th Amendment protected the vote for women, the 24th Amendment banned poll taxes, and the 26th Amendment protected the youth vote. These voter suppression bills target protected groups all at once.

The freedom to vote is foundational to every other right. URGE urges Congress to reject legislation that would make it harder for eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.

[1] How the SAVE Act Threatens the Freedom to Vote. Campaign Legal Center. Updated 2026. [How the SAVE Act Threatens the Freedom to Vote - Campaign Legal Center \(campaignlegal.org\)](https://campaignlegal.org/how-the-save-act-threatens-the-freedom-to-vote)

[2] SAVE Act. H.R. 22 / S. 128. 119th Congress (2025–2026). [H.R. 22 — SAVE Act - Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/house/22) / [S. 128 — SAVE Act - Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/senate/128)

[3] SAVE America Act. H.R. 7296 / S. 1383. 119th Congress (2025–2026). [H.R. 7296 — SAVE America Act - Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/house/7296) / [S. 1383 — SAVE America Act - House Rules Committee](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/senate/1383)

[4] Trump's Election Bill, the SAVE America Act, Has 50 Senate Votes but Democrats Could Block It. NBC News. February 2026. [SAVE America Act Has 50 Senate Votes - NBC News \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2026-election/save-act-has-50-senate-votes-but-democrats-could-block-it/story)

[5] Make Elections Great Again Act. H.R. 7300. 119th Congress (2025–2026). [H.R. 7300 — Make Elections Great Again Act - Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/house/7300)

[6] The SAVE Act: What Every American Voter Needs to Know. Vote.org. Updated 2026. [The SAVE Act: What Every American Voter Needs to Know - Vote.org \(vote.org\)](https://www.vote.org/save-act-what-every-american-voter-needs-to-know/)

[7] New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting. Brennan Center for Justice. Updated April 19, 2026. [New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting - Brennan Center for Justice \(brennancenter.org\)](https://www.brennancenter.org/issue/new-save-act-bills-would-still-block-millions-of-americans-from-voting)

[8] Ibid.,

[9] New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting. Brennan Center for Justice. Updated April 19, 2026. [New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting - Brennan Center for Justice \(brennancenter.org\)](https://www.brennancenter.org/issue/new-save-act-bills-would-still-block-millions-of-americans-from-voting)

[10] Ibid.,

[11] The SAVE America Act Explained: How the New 'Show Your Papers' Voting Bill Is Even More Extreme Than the SAVE Act. Center for American Progress. February 27, 2026. [The SAVE America Act Explained - Center for American Progress \(americanprogress.org\)](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/save-america-act-explained)

[12] New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting. Brennan Center for Justice. Updated April 19, 2026. [New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting - Brennan Center for Justice \(brennancenter.org\)](https://www.brennancenter.org/issue/new-save-act-bills-would-still-block-millions-of-americans-from-voting)

[13] Ibid.,

[14] The SAVE Act: What Every American Voter Needs to Know. Vote.org. Updated 2026. [The SAVE Act: What Every American Voter Needs to Know - Vote.org \(vote.org\)](https://www.vote.org/save-act-what-every-american-voter-needs-to-know/)

[15] New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting. Brennan Center for Justice. Updated April 19, 2026. [New SAVE Act Bills Would Still Block Millions of Americans From Voting - Brennan Center for Justice \(brennancenter.org\)](https://www.brennancenter.org/issue/new-save-act-bills-would-still-block-millions-of-americans-from-voting)

