



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections

Executive Order #14248

Date Issued: March 25, 2025

Topic: Voting Rights, Civil Rights, Immigration

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order mandates that prospective voters provide documentary proof of citizenship in order to be eligible to vote.
- The order excludes student and employee IDs from eligibility for voter registration and creates complications for people who do not have passports or have changed their names from what appears on their birth certificate, including married women and transgender people.
- The order authorizes a federal review of voter registration lists in all 50 states and allows state and local officials to access federal immigration databases in order to verify the citizenship of their voters.
- The order also compels the heads of all agencies that oversee federal voter registration to assess citizenship before distributing voter registration forms to people receiving public assistance, like Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries.
- The order seeks to withhold funding and grants from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) from states that do not comply with the order.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order instructs the EAC to amend the national mail voter registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship and ID verification by a state or local election official. The order also instructs the commission to re-certify voting equipment in accordance with this order and new standards of election integrity.
- The order also instructs the EAC to “cease providing federal funds to states that do not comply” with this order by requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship on the national mail voter registration form.
- The order directs the Secretary of Defense to require proof of U.S. citizenship and state eligibility for military personnel that want to vote while serving overseas.
- The order instructs the Attorney General to take legal action against states that count absentee or mail-in ballots received after Election Day in the final tabulation of votes for federal races.
- The order tasks the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Administrator and the Department of Homeland Security with cross-referencing state voter rolls with federal immigration databases. The order permits them to subpoena state records in order to comply with this mandate.
- The order requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to send a report of foreign nationals who have registered or voted in any election in any jurisdiction to the Attorney General and to relevant state and local officials within 90 days of the order. The order also instructs the Attorney General to coordinate with state attorneys general to assist with this review and prosecute any non-citizens who have voted in their jurisdictions.
- The order directs the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security and the Social Security Commissioner to give state and local officials free access to Federal databases in order to verify the citizenship status of current and prospective voters.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The order instructs the Attorney General to establish information-sharing agreements with state-level election officials to ensure that the DOJ is aware of suspected violations of state and federal election laws. If states are unwilling to enter these agreements, the order advises the Attorney General to “prioritize enforcement of Federal election integrity laws” in those states and to “review for potential withholding of grants and other funds,” alluding to denying resources to states that decline to participate in the information sharing agreements.
- The order requires the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to take all actions necessary to prevent non-citizens' involvement in the administration of federal elections, including by accessing election equipment or ballots. The order also asks the Attorney General to investigate instances of foreign nationals contributing or donating to U.S. elections.
- The order compels the U.S. Attorney General and the EAC to audit states to ensure that their voter registration lists are in compliance with the [National Voter Registration Act](#) and the [Help America Vote Act](#). The order instructs the EAC to report any violations of federal law to the DOJ for appropriate enforcement action.
- The order compels the Secretary of Homeland Security and the EAC to review and report on the security of all electronic systems used in the voter registration and voting process.
- The order directs the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to consider allocating funds to state and local election officers through Homeland Security Grant Programs. The order asks them to “heavily prioritize” compliance with new EAC voting system guidelines and receive accreditation from Voting System Test Labs when dispersing funds.
- The order demands that agencies cease work in relation to [Executive Order #14019](#) (Promoting Access to Voting), which President Trump rescinded on January 20, 2025. The order, which had been signed by President Joe Biden on March 7, 2021, included provisions on equal access for voters with disabilities, active-duty military members, and formerly incarcerated people.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- Voting has been illegal for non-citizens in all fifty states [since 1924](#), and, in 1996, Congress enacted [legislation](#) that made it a federal crime. The penalty for registering to vote as a non-citizen is up to five years in federal prison. Non-citizens found guilty of voting in U.S. elections can face more serious consequences, including deportation. This executive order adds documentary proof of citizenship as a requirement for voter eligibility. The Trump Administration argues that this order is necessary to protect American elections from foreign interference, but it will likely make voting more difficult for the most vulnerable populations.
- In 2024, only [56% of U.S. adults](#) had a REAL ID. To obtain a REAL ID, you must travel to a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office with two forms of proof of residence and lawful status. Going to the DMV is laborious for voters without access to reliable transportation, and this order will create additional hurdles for them. The REAL ID requirements also create logistical challenges for married women. Eligible documents include a birth certificate or Social Security card, documents unusable for women who changed their names after getting married. This new requirement will create barriers to electoral participation for the more than 5 million married Black women in the United States. This is significant because Black women have been one of the most consistent voting blocs in the country, and this order could suppress turnout. The order also creates complications for transgender people, who may struggle to obtain identification that has their preferred name.
- Voters can also use passports to prove their citizenship, but [only 39%](#) of Black people living in the South have passports. Obtaining a passport is a lengthy and expensive process, as the cost is over \$150 and can take months to arrive.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The order also makes it more difficult for military personnel to vote. 29% of active-duty men and 17% of active-duty women in the military are Black. Requiring proof of citizenship complicates the electoral process for members of the armed forces who are working overseas to protect the United States.
- The provision of the order that tightens deadlines for mail-in ballots will also create significant barriers for Black communities to vote. In the 2024 election cycle, twenty states accepted mail-in ballots that arrived after Election Day, including Texas and Maryland, which have over 6 million Black residents combined. This order encourages the attorney general to take “enforcement action” against states who participate in that practice, which could lead to the disqualification of thousands of votes. Because of this order, voters with disabilities and older voters who do not drive may have to take public transportation to vote in-person in order to ensure that their ballot is counted. Rural voters may have to take time off work to drive to a polling place because their mail system is not reliable. College students may have to leave school and return to their hometown to ensure that their vote is tabulated.
- The order also stipulates that social service professionals must vet public assistance enrollees’ citizenship before providing them with a voter registration form, which will disproportionately impact Black communities. While Black people comprise about 13% of the U.S. population, 21% of Medicaid and CHIP enrollees and about 27% of adult and child SNAP recipients are Black. Applicants for public assistance already have to provide numerous documents to prove their eligibility for those services; adding an additional layer to that process increases their burden.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has advocated for the right to vote since its inception. On March 26, 2025, **Rep. Yvette D. Clarke**, Chair of the CBC, issued the following statement on behalf of the Caucus in response to this executive order:
 - “Donald Trump and extreme MAGA Republicans have lost their damn minds. President Trump signed an executive order to take away power from the states and change how federal elections are administered across the country. This executive order, if enacted, could stop millions of eligible Americans from exercising their right to vote for simply failing to meet overly strict voter ID requirements or for choosing to vote by mail. He is even threatening to withhold critically needed election administration funding from states that do not comply with his illegal demands. [...] There is no world or scenario in which this unlawful, anti-election, and dictatorial executive order isn’t challenged thoroughly in the Courts. Voting rights has always been the CBC’s north star. The right to vote is the right from which all other rights flow. We will never yield an inch in the fight to protect the sacred franchise.” [Full Statement](#)
- **Rep. Terri Sewell** issued the following [statement](#) in response to this executive order:
 - “President Trump’s executive order to erode voting rights and give Elon Musk access to the American people’s personal voter information is a clear power grab intended to disenfranchise and intimidate voters. Trump is once again showing that he has no regard for the U.S. Constitution, the rule of law, or the fundamental principle that all Americans, regardless of their race, creed, or color, have a right to have their voice heard at the ballot box. To be clear, this executive order has nothing to do with protecting the integrity of our elections. These are the actions of a wannabe dictator, and we will not stand by as he attempts to dismantle the core principles of our democracy! The American people’s right to vote is sacred, and I will continue the fight to pass H.R. 14, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, in order to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act and protect the American people from the authoritarian actions of the Trump Administration.”
- Three weeks before the White House issued this executive order, **Rep. Sewell**, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board of Directors, introduced the [John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#), which moves to address voter suppression and increase access to the ballot box for all Americans. The bill was [cosponsored](#) by every House Democrat, including 58 CBC Members.