



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections

Executive Order #14248

POLICY UPDATE

Background

- On March 25, 2025, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) that changes the National Voter Registration Form requirements to include documentary proof of citizenship and ID verification by state or local election officials. Under this order, prospective voters would have to bring their birth certificate or passport to their polling station in order to register to vote. This creates significant hurdles for marginalized groups. For example, women who changed their names after getting married will not be able to use their birth certificate to verify their citizenship. In addition, only [one-third of Black Americans](#) currently own a passport. Obtaining one costs over \$150 and can take at least six weeks to arrive. The order will also make it more difficult for transgender people, students, and disabled people to vote.

Current Landscape

- Since President Trump issued the order, [19 states](#) and more than five [organizations](#), including the Democratic National Committee, have filed lawsuits against his Administration. The plaintiffs assert that the President does not have the authority to direct the Election Assistance Commission to change the national voter registration form because it is an independent agency. Additionally, the state attorneys general argue that the executive branch does not have the authority to dictate election operations. The Constitution grants states the right to determine how elections are administered and Congress the ability to override those laws, fueling the states' claim that the executive order is unenforceable. Voter advocacy organizations are also arguing that the order will lead to [discrimination at the polls](#) and purges of lawful voters. The [Congressional Voting Rights Caucus](#) and several [civil rights organizations](#) have condemned the order for creating barriers to voting rights and accessibility.

POLICY UPDATE

- Despite over 200 House Democrats voting against it, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the [Safeguard American Voter Eligibility \(SAVE\) Act](#) on April 10, 2025. The SAVE Act would require in-person verification of citizenship documents for voter registration and codify several of the executive order's provisions into law. This is not Republican lawmakers' first attempt at passing this legislation. In 2024, the SAVE Act [passed](#) in the House but could not surpass the 60-vote filibuster threshold in the Democrat-majority Senate. This time, the Republican majority can bring the bill to the floor.
- House Republicans presented this legislation as a means to prevent undocumented immigrants from voting, though non-citizen voting is incredibly rare. The Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank responsible for [Project 2025](#), audited election results from the last 40 years and found [fewer than 25](#) total incidences of non-citizen voting out of over one billion lawful votes cast. Moreover, voting has been illegal for non-citizens in all fifty states [since 1924](#). In 1996, Congress enacted [legislation](#) that made registering to vote as a non-citizen a federal crime with a penalty of up to five years in prison. Despite claims from [President Trump](#) and other Republican leaders, non-citizen voting has not had an impact on U.S. election results.
- The SAVE Act has far-reaching consequences beyond preventing undocumented immigrants from voting. The bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act and effectively end automatic voter registration, online voter registration, voter registration drives, and mail-in voter registration. If enacted, election officials could face legal action for failing to verify citizenship. This bill would disproportionately impact Black Americans and likely suppress voter turnout significantly in upcoming elections.
- The SAVE Act has reached the Senate, but it is not yet law. In addition to the Republican caucus, Senate Majority Leader John Thune would need seven Democratic Senators to vote for the bill. At this time, no Democratic Senators have indicated that they would do so. In a speech on April 30, 2025, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) declared the bill [“dead on arrival.”](#) Nevertheless, this legislation is an alarming indicator of the precarious status of voting rights in the United States.