

FREEDOM AND FAITH DEFENSE PROJECT

Secure Elections Without Disenfranchising Law-Abiding Americans

What's Happening?

Congress is considering advancing the SAVE America Act, which would require documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections.

Many conservatives support the principle behind the bill: only American citizens should vote in American elections. That's common sense.

But moving sweeping federal election changes this close to the 2026 cycle raises serious concerns about timing, implementation, and unintended consequences, particularly for rural voters and military families. Election integrity matters. So does protecting lawful voters.

The Principle Is Sound

Requiring proof of citizenship at registration aligns with voter ID laws most Americans already support.

Ensuring that only citizens vote strengthens trust in our elections.

That goal is legitimate and widely shared on the right.

The Concern: Timing & Impact

Recent polling commissioned by FFDP shows that while most likely voters (55%) support the SAVE America Act, the overwhelming majority (90%) report that there are more important issues for elected officials to focus on right now.

Major changes to state election systems require time to implement correctly. Rushing them risks confusion and disruption. Nearly one-third of voters polled are concerned that the SAVE America Act could have a disparate impact on groups like rural residents, the military, low-income individuals, married women, and elderly voters.

- Rural Americans:
 - Accessing certified birth certificates or passports can require travel, fees, and long processing times, especially in rural communities with limited government offices.
- Military & Overseas Voters:

- Service members stationed abroad may face documentation barriers that complicate registration and absentee voting.
- Married Women & Name Changes:
 - Voters whose current legal name differs from their birth certificate could encounter additional hurdles.
- Local Election Officials:
 - Small counties may struggle to update systems and procedures on a compressed timeline.

Conservatives should not support reforms that unintentionally sideline eligible voters, especially those who serve our country or live far from government offices.

A Conservative Approach: Get It Right

We can support strong voter safeguards while also insisting on responsible implementation.

If Congress moves forward, lawmakers should:

- Set implementation well beyond the 2026 election.
- Protect military and overseas voters with streamlined verification.
- Provide flexibility and resources for rural counties.
- Ensure no eligible voter loses access due to bureaucratic delays.

Election reform should strengthen confidence, not create uncertainty.

Meaningful policy change should not be based on political fear-tactics. Our polling shows that 37% of voters believe that claims of rampant voter fraud and cheating to win elections are baseless, and using language about fraud is the least persuasive messaging to support the policies in the SAVE America Act.

The Bottom Line

This is not about opposing voter ID.

It's about avoiding rushed federal mandates that could disenfranchise lawful Americans.

Conservatives can stand for secure elections and protect rural voters, military families, and seniors at the same time.

Secure the ballot. Protect every lawful vote.