

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chairman
Committee on Rules and Administration
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules and Administration
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
570 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Opposition to the SAVE Act (H.R. 22, S. 128) – Unfunded, Operationally Unrealistic, and Legally Risky for Election Officials

Dear Chair McConnell, Ranking Member Padilla, Chair Steil, and Ranking Member Morelle:

As election officials responsible for ensuring the secure and efficient administration of elections, we write to express our strong concerns regarding the SAVE Act (H.R. 22, S. 128). This legislation places unfunded, operationally unrealistic, and legally precarious burdens on election offices across the country.

Significant Implementation Costs Without Federal Support

The SAVE Act requires voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship to election official at the time of voter registration, mandating that most applicants produce multiple forms of identification that millions of eligible voters do not possess. However, this federal mandate comes without funding to support the extensive changes required at the state and local levels, including:

- Developing and distributing new voter registration forms and processing systems;
- Training staff and poll workers to navigate complex documentation requirements;
- Establishing voter education initiatives to ensure compliance with the law.

These changes represent a major administrative undertaking that would be shouldered entirely by local election offices — many of which operate under tight budgets and limited personnel.

Operational and Legal Challenges for Election Officials

Under the act, voters are not only required to provide proof of citizenship with every voter

registration, but they must appear IN-PERSON with their proof to complete their registration rather than submitting a copy via mail or online with their registration application. This creates an extremely complex administrative burden - tracking the status of “in limbo” voters who have submitted an application that is otherwise compliant but have not yet appeared in-person with documentary proof. Most election officials or registration agencies would undoubtedly need to extend their office hours to accommodate evenings and weekend hours, as well as staff for increased in-person voter registration transactions. In states that allow Election Day registration, voters have up until the time they appear at the polling place to present the proof of citizenship, further complicating the job of Election Day workers.

Compounding this challenge, the SAVE Act exposes election officials to legal liability. The law threatens both civil and criminal penalties for errors in processing voter registrations, yet provides no clear federal guidance on implementation. This means that election officials, many of whom are part-time or seasonal workers, will be responsible for enforcing complicated new documentation rules under the threat of personal legal consequences. The result is a high-risk, high-pressure environment for election officials, deterring qualified personnel from serving in these critical roles.

Unrealistic Implementation Timeline and Increased Liability Risks

The SAVE Act mandates immediate implementation, leaving no time for election officials to develop the necessary systems and processes to comply. A comparable example is the implementation of REAL ID, which was originally set to take effect in 2008 but remains delayed 17 years later due to state-level implementation challenges. Expecting election offices to enforce complex new documentation requirements before the next federal election is impractical and will cause widespread operational challenges.

The rushed timeline will increase the likelihood of errors, which, under the SAVE Act, could result in severe legal consequences for election officials who make unintentional mistakes while processing registrations. Given the complexity of verifying documentation, election offices need extensive training and resources to comply with this law — neither of which the SAVE Act provides.

A More Effective Approach: Collaboration with Election Officials

States already have systems in place to verify voter identity, and many have backend processes to confirm citizenship status. If Congress chooses to legislate additional verification measures, such policies should be developed in consultation with state and local election administrators to ensure they are workable, cost-effective, and do not disrupt election administration or expose election officials to unnecessary legal risks.

As election officials, our priority is to conduct secure, efficient, and well-organized elections. The SAVE Act places an unfunded, unworkable, and legally risky burden on election administrators without offering the necessary resources or implementation support. We urge you to oppose this bill and instead work with election officials to develop policies that strengthen election security without jeopardizing administrative efficiency or exposing election personnel to legal liability.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and work collaboratively toward practical solutions.

Sincerely,

Tonnie Adams

Election Supervisor, Heard County, GA

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Nevada Secretary of State*

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*Indicates a member of Issue One's [Faces of Democracy](#) campaign

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
Members of the Committee on House Administration