



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
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February 18, 2026

Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our strong opposition to the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act and to recent efforts by the President to nationalize election administration in ways that undermine state sovereignty, burden eligible voters, and threaten our democratic system. We urge the Senate to reject the SAVE America Act and stand up against the nationalization of elections.

For more than two centuries, election administration has been a core function of the states, a power rooted in the Constitution and in our historic role as guardians of public trust, ballot access, and election integrity. States are best positioned to manage voter registration systems, verify eligibility, and respond to the unique needs of their communities. Federal efforts that seek to displace and dismantle this authority risk chaos, disenfranchisement, and the erosion of democratic norms.

The SAVE America Act would radically upend voter registration nationwide by requiring Americans to present documentary proof of citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate, in person for every new registration or update. Driver's licenses, including REAL IDs, and military or tribal IDs alone would not suffice. This change would be particularly consequential for veterans, many of whom routinely use military-issued identification as a primary form of official ID. This legislation shifts the burden of verifying eligibility away from government systems and onto individual citizens, forcing millions to prove their right to vote before being allowed to participate in our democracy.

In practice, this would eliminate online voter registration relied upon by 42 states, end mail-in registration, cripple automatic voter registration systems, and abolish voter registration drives—the key tools states use to modernize elections and expand civic participation. Tens of millions of

voters who currently register or update their information electronically or by mail would be required to appear in person at election offices, which would overwhelm state resources and create significant barriers to participation.

The SAVE America Act would also disproportionately harm working-class Americans, rural voters, and young people. Among Americans whose highest level of education is a high school degree or less, approximately 1 in 4 have a valid passport. Among Americans with a household income below \$50,000, only 1 in 5 have a valid passport. It would uniquely serve to disqualify women, particularly the nearly 69 million women whose birth certificates no longer match their legal names due to marriage or court-ordered name changes.

These sweeping restrictions are unnecessary. Citizenship is already a requirement to vote in federal elections. State and federal election officials routinely verify eligibility using data from motor vehicle agencies, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and other sources. Instances of noncitizen voting are exceedingly rare and have never been shown to affect election outcomes. In states that have conducted comprehensive reviews of voter rolls, confirmed cases of noncitizen registration are measured in single digits, not in numbers that justify dismantling modern registration systems nationwide.

Experience demonstrates that documentary proof requirements disenfranchise vastly more eligible citizens than they prevent improper registrations. Kansas' documentary-proof-of-citizenship law, for example, blocked roughly 31,000 eligible voters, about 12 percent of applicants, while uncovering virtually no unlawful voting. The SAVE America Act would replicate this failure on a national scale.

Equally troubling are broader efforts by the President to federalize election administration under the guise of "election integrity," many of which are rooted in ongoing false revisionism about the 2020 election - an election that has been repeatedly affirmed by the courts. These initiatives seek to strip states of their constitutional authority, intimidate election officials, and impose one-size-fits-all mandates that ignore the operational realities of running elections across a diverse nation. Far from strengthening democracy, such efforts risk voter confusion, administrative breakdowns, and widespread disenfranchisement.

As state Attorneys General, we are on the front lines of protecting the right to vote, combating disinformation, and ensuring that elections are fair, secure, and accessible. The right to vote is sacred, and it is the foundation from which all other rights flow. Our nation's history makes clear that when burdens are placed on registration and participation, communities of color, low-income Americans, and working families pay the highest price.

We urge the Senate to reject the SAVE America Act and any executive efforts that seek to nationalize election administration, undermine state authority, or erect new barriers to the ballot box. Protecting democracy does not mean making it harder for eligible Americans to vote. It means investing in secure, accessible systems that uphold both integrity and participation. Our democracy is strongest when every eligible citizen can participate freely and fairly. We stand ready to work with Congress on solutions that support election security while respecting state sovereignty, constitutional principles and the fundamental right to vote.

Sincerely,



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