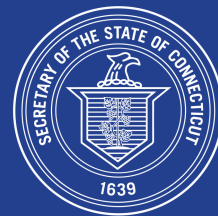




Understanding Voter Registration Through the SAVE Act & Executive Order 14248



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SAVE Act?

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act is a bill in Congress that makes several changes to U.S. elections, including how Americans register to vote.

What is Executive Order 14248?

Titled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections," Executive Order (EO) 14248 signed in March 2025 amends how Americans register to vote, along with other election changes.

Are the SAVE Act and EO 14248 the same?

No. Although both measures address voter registration and other election procedures, they are different.

Are either of these currently in effect?

The SAVE Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives but needs to pass the U.S. Senate to become law. EO 14248 contains varying effective dates. Some provisions went into immediate effect. However, because of a ruling by the Washington, D.C., District Court, several provisions that were to take effect April 25, 2025, are currently on hold — specifically those related to the required documentary proof of U.S. citizenship and associated changes to the National Mail Voter Registration Form. Additional lawsuits are pending. Parts of the order currently active include:

- The revocation of Executive Order 14019, "Promoting Access to Voting," issued by President Biden on March 7, 2021.
- That the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must provide state and local election officials with free access to federal systems to verify the citizenship status of individuals registering to vote or already registered.
- That DHS and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) collaborate to review each state's publicly available voter registration lists and maintenance activities for compliance with federal requirements.
- That the Department of Justice can take "enforcement action" against states that accept and count ballots received after the polls close on Election Day.



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Would the SAVE Act eliminate online and mail-in voter registration? Would the Executive Order?

Yes. As currently drafted, the SAVE Act would require all voters and anyone updating their voter registration to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship **in person to their local registrars of voters**. This would eliminate mail-in and online registration, as well as the ability to register through the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles or at a school- or community-based drive.

Although the executive order does not specifically prohibit mail-in or online registration, it makes these methods impractical, as it directs the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to require that individuals using the National Mail Voter Registration Form to also present, in person, documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

Would these laws allow a Connecticut REAL ID to count as proof of citizenship?

No. Although a REAL ID issued in Connecticut meets federal identification standards for boarding domestic flights and accessing federal facilities, **it does not qualify as proof of U.S. citizenship** under either the SAVE Act or executive order. Proof of citizenship documents accepted under the SAVE Act include a U.S. passport, birth certificate with seal that shows birth in the United States, Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Real ID that explicitly indicates U.S. citizenship, or tribal identification document that verifies U.S. citizenship. The SAVE Act allows states to determine what steps can be taken if you are a citizen without access to these documents. The executive order only stipulates that a U.S. passport and naturalization certificate may be used. It does not specify details about birth certificate usage or allowable steps if documents aren't available.

How could these laws affect college students going to school out of state?

Under both the SAVE Act and EO 14248, college students who want to register to vote in the state they live in for school would need to provide the mandatory in-person citizenship documentation to election officials in the town or county of their residence while at school.

Would people in the U.S. military or others living overseas be exempt from the in-person proof of U.S. citizenship requirements in the SAVE Act and EO 14248?

No. If the SAVE Act passes, U.S. citizens living overseas — including members of the military and their families — would need to provide the same in-person documentation of U.S. citizenship as everyone else. Military ID, unless modified to include citizenship status, could not be used as a valid ID. Under the EO, they would need to send documentation of U.S. citizenship, as well as proof of eligibility to vote in the state where they are seeking to cast their vote.



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What if I'm already registered to vote?

Though the SAVE Act primarily targets new registrations, it also requires states to remove individuals as voters if they cannot provide in-person documentation of U.S. citizenship when updating their registration for a name change, change of party, or change of address. The SAVE Act also requires states to establish programs to identify and remove non-citizens from voter rolls.

If the federal court order is removed from EO 14248, voters identified as possible non-citizens may be asked to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. The order stipulates that only a U.S. passport or naturalization certificate may be used. A registered voter updating their registration for a name change, change of party, or change of address would also need to show this documentation.

How might the Save Act and EO 14248 affect married women, transgender people, or others with name changes?

Under the SAVE Act, if your current legal name doesn't match your birth certificate or citizenship document, you will need to provide additional legal documents, such as a marriage certificate or court-ordered name change decree, to verify your identity and register to vote or make a change to your existing registration.

The executive order does not provide details about how to vote if you are unable to present the accepted documents.

Is it true that under the SAVE Act and EO 14248, election workers who make even unintentional voter registration errors could face criminal penalties?

Yes. In the SAVE Act, an election official who registers an applicant without the proper citizenship documentation faces substantial fines and up to five years in federal prison, even if the applicant was a U.S. citizen. It also allows private citizens to report and initiate civil lawsuits against election officials suspected of registering voters without the mandated proof of citizenship.

EO 14248 directs the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to review state voter rolls for ineligible voters, as well as instructs the U.S. Attorney General to prioritize the enforcement of federal laws that prohibit non-citizens from voting, including laws that could implicate officials who unknowingly register non-citizens. While EO 14248 does not specify penalties for election officials, it suggests federal grants and other funds may be withheld from states that do not comply with requirements. It also directs state election officials to share information regarding suspected violations of election law to the Department of Justice.



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I heard that a judge blocked EO 14248. What does this mean?

As of April 24, 2025, a Washington, D.C., Circuit Court judge blocked section 2(a) of the executive order from taking effect. This section requires the EAC to make changes to the National Mail Voter Registration Form to provide space for documentary proof of citizenship, the issuing agency of that document, and the expiration date of the document. As a result of this order, the EAC is not making any changes to the federal registration form until the courts resolve the case.

What should I do now to be ready if voting laws change under the SAVE Act or EO 14248?

- Check your voter registration details at <https://MyVote.ct.gov>, so you are prepared if either of these measures take effect. Note: The state database does not yet have the ability to record citizenship status, so there is no need to present these documents to your registrar at this time.
- If you're eligible to vote and want to register, go to <https://MyVote.ct.gov> or visit your registrar of voters.
- Locate your proof of citizenship paperwork or begin the process to secure a copy.
- Follow us on social media for updated information as changes occur.

