

The SAVE America Act by the Numbers: How Millions of Eligible Voters Could Be Affected

March 2026



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Executive Summary

The SAVE America Act would fundamentally change how Americans register to vote by requiring in-person documentary proof of citizenship and restricting widely used registration methods.

Because most voters rely on online, mail, DMV, or automatic registration systems, the legislation could create new barriers for tens of millions of eligible voters across every state regardless of party or geography. If enacted, **83% of voters** would not have been able to register or update their registration using the same methods they relied on in the 2023-2024 election cycle.



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How Americans Register to Vote Today and What Would Change Under the SAVE America Act



Most voters register or update their information using convenient methods that do not require in-person documentary proof of citizenship.

Common registration methods used in 2024:

- Online voter registration
- Mail registration
- DMV/agency registration (motor vehicle offices, public agencies)
- Automatic voter registration
- Third-party registration drives
- Election office registration by mail or drop box

Under the SAVE America Act, these methods would be restricted or would require individuals to present a birth certificate or passport in person at an election office to prove citizenship.





Our Analysis

We analyzed state-by-state data on documentation access, voter registration methods, and vote-by-mail usage.

The data show three clear national patterns:

Most voters currently use registration methods the SAVE America Act would restrict

Large numbers of eligible voters lack required citizenship documents

The impact is nationwide—across red, blue, and battleground states

Methodology note:

Analysis uses state-reported registration transaction data to estimate share of registrations conducted outside in-person election offices.

Finding #1

Most voters currently use registration methods that would be restricted.



Across all states:

- ~102 million voter registrations and registration updates occurred in the 2023/2024 election cycle
- 83% rely on methods that would be restricted or require changes under the SAVE America Act
- Median state: ~89% of registration activity affected
- In many states, 90–99% of voters registered using methods that would be restricted under the SAVE America Act

What this means: The data show the SAVE America Act would fundamentally change how most Americans register to vote.

Methodology note: Voter registration data for Alabama and North Dakota was not available.

Finding #2



**Passport
access is
far from
universal.**

Across all states:

- Average passport ownership: ~50% of citizens
- Median state: ~47%
- Meaning: roughly half of citizens in a state do NOT have passports

Some states far lower:

- Alabama: ~28%
- Arkansas: ~28%
- Mississippi: ~22%
- West Virginia: ~20%

Cost of a new passport: \$165

What this means: A passport-based documentation system would immediately create barriers for millions of eligible voters.

Finding #3



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**Documentation
mismatch
affects
massive
numbers
of women.**

Across states:

- At least 69 million women across states have last names that do not match their birth certificate (due to marriage or hyphenation)

In many states:

- California: 7M+
- Texas: 5M+
- Florida: 4.7M+
- Even small states: hundreds of thousands

What this means: Documentary proof requirements could create administrative hurdles for a huge share of eligible women voters.

Finding #4



**Vote-by-mail
usage is
massive.**

Across states:

- 47+ million mail ballots cast in 2024 across states included in data

Many states rely heavily on mail voting:

- California: 13M+ ballots
- Arizona: 2.8M+
- Florida: 2.9M+
- Colorado: 3M+

What this means: Any barriers to registration or restrictions to vote-by-mail affect millions of mail voters.

Data Sources for the Analysis



Center for American Progress. (2025). *The SAVE Act: Overview and Facts*.

U.S. Department of State. *Passport Fees*.

U.S. Election Assistance Commission. (2025). *2024 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Comprehensive Report*.