



Save America Act FAQ: How Will All Oregonians Be Affected?

The *SAVE America Act* would disproportionately hurt women, and people who live in rural areas, are persons of color, older, students, or have disabilities by making it harder, and in some cases impossible, to vote. Millions and millions of eligible voters in America could lose their voting rights if this becomes law.

The SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) America Act (H.R.7296) is a bill in Congress that would **require every American to provide documentary proof of citizenship—in person—to register to vote in federal elections, or to change or update their voter registration to vote in federal elections.** This bill would also require new photo ID requirements for federal elections, and requires states to turn their voter rolls over to the Department of Homeland Security.

The SAVE America Act passed in the US House February 11, 2026, and is now being considered by the US Senate. You can read the House bill [here](#).

Why is the SAVE America Act harmful?

Voter fraud is exceedingly rare according to the Heritage Foundation, but **the real issue is that very few kinds of documentation meet the “documentary proof of citizenship” definition.** The narrow kinds of accepted ID would make registering to vote difficult, if not impossible, for millions of eligible voters.

- **Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) needs to show citizenship on its face—the document must explicitly say the holder is a citizen.** This documentation would be limited to birth certificates, passports, and naturalization certificates only.
- **REAL ID cards in most states would not be accepted.** In all but 5 states (Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington), REAL ID cards don't show citizenship. Driver's licenses, state-issued IDs, and US Veterans ID would also not be accepted.
- **Photo ID requirements for in-person voting:** Voters would be required to provide government-issued photo ID to vote in person; specifically U.S. passports, driver's licenses, or state, military and tribal IDs.
- **Photo ID requirements for absentee voting:** Voters would be required to include a copy of an eligible photo ID both when requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.
- **States must turn over their voter registration lists to the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database.**
- **Criminal penalties, including imprisonment, on election workers for mistakenly registering voters without proof of citizenship:** These would apply even if the individual is a US Citizen.

If an eligible voter doesn't have a passport and their name doesn't match their birth certificate or naturalization papers, the process for deciding voter eligibility is left to the state. What that would actually look like is unclear.

- **States can make their own rules about what kind of additional documentation is required to prove the voter's identity.**
- **Whatever a state decides has to go through legal channels, which can take a long time and leave many eligible voters behind:** If there's an election before Oregon passes a new law to address this, countless Oregonians could be denied their constitutional right to vote.

The SAVE America Act would *only* allow voter registration in person with an election official.

- This would effectively end voter registration by mail, online voter registration, and community voter drives.
- If SAVE America was passed into law today, the only place in Oregon where people could register or re-register would be county Boards of Elections: Oregon has only one per county.

Who would the SAVE Act impact?

Women

- Many women will be unable to get the documents needed to prove citizenship: it costs money and time to get these records, and for some women, these documents may simply not be available.
- A state could decide a marriage certificate showing the eligible voter's name change in concert with their birth certificate wasn't enough to prove citizenship. Election officials are allowed but not required to offer voters who bring DPOC that doesn't match their name the chance to sign an affidavit attesting they are the same person.
- More than 75% of women in the US change their name when they get married.
- There are 73% of women in Oregon who are or have been married.

Oregon Service Members and Military Families.

- A standard Department of Defense military ID would not, by itself, satisfy the requirements.
- Service members would need a "military record of service" showing U.S. birth.
- No method exists for county election officials to evaluate such records, particularly for absentee voters.
- Military families update voter registrations more frequently due to permanent changes of station, deployments, and name changes. Each update would potentially require renewed documentation.

- Raises questions about compatibility with existing federal protections for military and overseas voters. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act establish procedures for absentee voting and require states to transmit ballots at least 45 days before federal elections.

Rural Oregonians

Rural - any geographic area in Oregon ten-plus miles from a population center of 40,000 people or more.

Frontier - any county with six or fewer people per square mile; 10 of Oregon's 36 counties.

- Rural Americans are almost twice as likely as urban to lack access to a birth certificate or passport. [Source](#).
- Each Oregon county has only one Board of Elections, so long travel times for many residents. [Source](#).
- Lack of public transportation is a significant barrier in rural areas.
- 33% (1,403,688) of Oregon's population lives in rural areas, 2% (97,666) in frontier.

Older Oregonians

- Those in assisted living facilities or no longer drive may not be able to get to their county Board of Elections.
- The older a birth certificate or marriage license, the harder it may be to retrieve.
- Official documents like these may simply be gone, no longer kept on public record.
- At 19%, Oregon is home to almost 82 thousand people aged 65 years and older.

Oregonians with disabilities

- In-person voters with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to report difficulties waiting in line, getting inside the polling place, reading or seeing the ballot, or writing on the ballot.
- The SAVE America Act says states should make "reasonable accommodations" for voters with disabilities but does not say what those accommodations should be.
- The SAVE America Act also does not say what kinds of disabilities would be included in these accommodations, or how the voter would prove their disability was eligible.
- There are 626,000 Oregonians who experience a disability, nearly 14%.

Oregonian People of Color

- Americans of color are twice as likely as white Americans to lack access to a birth certificate or passport.
- 33% of Americans of color do not have a US passport.
- 32% of Oregonians are of color.

Young Oregonians and Students

- People 18-29 move more often than any other age group, necessitating frequent updates to their voter registration. This is especially true for students.

- Many will not be able to reach a county Board of Elections during designated hours due to the distance, conflicting schedules, or lack of public transportation.
- Oregon has more than 500,000 residents between the ages of 20-29, with almost 200,000 graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in Oregon colleges and universities.

Election Officials, Workers, Volunteers, and All Oregonians

- The SAVE America Act would require billions of dollars for education campaigns, staff and volunteer training, and changes for forms, public-facing platforms, and signage, but allocates \$0 to pay for these changes. States (meaning taxpayers) would be stuck with the bill.
- Election workers would be subject to criminal penalties, including prison, if they help to register a prospective voter who had incorrect proof of citizenship, even if the registered voter is a citizen.
- Increasing burdens on election workers could create a chilling effect in recruiting and hiring new election workers, as many will not want to put themselves at risk. Having fewer election workers makes our elections less safe.

Take action to stop the SAVE America Act TODAY.

Resources for Lane County-call:

Senator [Wyden](#) - (541) 431-0229

Senator [Merkley](#) - (541) 465-6750

- Action Alert from the League of Women Voters of the US [here](#): this links to a message to send your Oregon Congressperson and Senators Merkley and Wyden
- Social media to share from League of Women Voters of Oregon [here](#)
- Share these in your personal social media and in group texts with friends, family, and co-workers.

REFERENCES:

Center for Research on Disability: [Section 1: Population and Prevalence - Compendium \(2025\) | Center for Research on Disability](#)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [Survey Indicates House Bill Could Deny Voting Rights to Millions of U.S. Citizens | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

College Evaluator.com: [2025 Oregon Colleges Enrollment Comparison](#)

DHS.gov: [REAL ID Frequently Asked Questions | Transportation Security Administration](#)

Government Accountability Office: [GAO-17-204. IMMIGRATION STATUS VERIFICATION FOR BENEFITS: Actions Needed to Improve Effectiveness and Oversight](#)

Neilsberg Research-Oregon: [Oregon Population by Race & Ethnicity - 2025 Update | Neilsberg, Oregon Population by Age - 2025 Update | Neilsberg](#)

119th Congress: [Text for Senate bill1383](#)

Oregon Live.com: [Voter fraud does happen. But it's rare and election offices have safeguards to catch it - oregonlive.com](#)

Oregon Office on Disability and Health: [Oregon Disability Health Data and Statistics | OHSU](#)

Oregon Secretary of State: [State of Oregon: Elections - County Elections Officials](#)

Pew Research.org - [About 8 in 10 women in opposite-sex marriages say they took their husband's last name](#)

Statistical Atlas: [Marital Status in Oregon \(State\)](#)

U.S. Census Bureau-Oregon: [Young Adults Most Likely to Change Living Arrangements, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/or](#)

U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)- Rutgers University: [Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2022 Elections](#)

YouGov: [Adults under 30 are more likely than older Americans to have a current U.S. passport](#)