

Op-Ed: The Senate Must Finish the Job and Pass the SAVE Act

By [Your Name]

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. This important bill is now before the Senate, where it awaits action. At its core, the SAVE Act ensures a principle every American already agrees with: only citizens should vote in U.S. elections.

A Commonsense Safeguard

The SAVE Act closes a gap in federal law. Under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, states cannot require documentary proof of citizenship when registering with the federal form. Instead, applicants simply sign a statement affirming they are citizens. That means individuals who hold driver's licenses or Social Security numbers—but who are not citizens—can sometimes end up on voter rolls by mistake.

The SAVE Act fixes this loophole by requiring registrants to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization certificate. These are routine documents that Americans already use when applying for a passport, Social Security, or even a mortgage. Replacement copies are available from state and federal offices, and the bill includes accommodations for voters who need them.

Responding to the Critics

Opponents argue that noncitizen voting is rare, or that requiring documents could burden certain citizens, especially women who have changed names after marriage or divorce. These concerns deserve consideration. But they do not outweigh the need for secure elections.

Even if noncitizen voting is uncommon, the possibility alone undermines public trust. Just as a single airline accident can shake people's faith in air travel, even a handful of questionable ballots cast doubt on the fairness of our entire election system. Confidence in elections matters—because without it, participation drops and cynicism grows.

As for documentation, millions of Americans already use these papers for everyday needs. The SAVE Act does not create an impossible barrier; it simply requires the same standard proof of citizenship that government agencies rely on for countless other services. Far from disenfranchising lawful voters, it strengthens their right by ensuring their ballots are not diluted.

Protecting Citizens and Noncitizens Alike

This reform also protects noncitizens. Many legal residents receive mixed messages from registration drives or agencies and could mistakenly register, putting their future in jeopardy. The SAVE Act prevents those mistakes before they become life-changing crimes.

Time for Senate Action

Protecting the integrity of the ballot is not a partisan issue—it is the foundation of self-government. The House has already done its part. Now it is time for the Senate to act.

Passing the SAVE Act will: - Guarantee that only citizens vote in federal elections. - Restore trust in the democratic process. - Protect both citizens' rights and noncitizens from accidental harm.

Our Republic depends on free and fair elections. Every citizen's ballot should count fully, without dilution. The SAVE Act is a commonsense safeguard to ensure that principle. The Senate should pass it without delay.

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[Your Name]

[Your City, State]