

March 18, 2026



**The Honorable John Thune**

Majority Leader, United States Senate  
SR-493, Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable Charles E. Schumer**

Minority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer,**

As the America First Policy Institute's Attorneys General Council, we write in support of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act. Few principles are more foundational than the exclusive right of American citizens to vote in American elections. The SAVE America Act adds clear enforceability to existing federal law while respecting the constitutional prerogatives of the states.

Despite the fact that only U.S. citizens are legally permitted to vote in federal elections, states do not have to verify citizenship at the time of registration. Most states, including many we represent, have addressed part of this gap by requiring photo identification at the polls. But there are still states with few or no meaningful safeguards in place to verify who is casting a ballot in federal elections. States that carry large populations of individuals here illegally, and that have done little to secure their electoral processes, therefore exercise a disproportionate influence over the laws that govern all Americans, and over how billions of dollars in federal tax revenue are allocated.

The SAVE America Act is a critical piece of legislation whose policies are supported by more than 80% of the American public. Given the amount of misinformation surrounding this legislation, we want to clarify that the SAVE America Act does not do several things. First, it does not nationalize elections. We are mindful and respectful of the fact that election administration is largely a state responsibility. Nothing in the SAVE America Act displaces or assumes that responsibility. Rather, it establishes a federal baseline for citizenship verification in federal elections, which is entirely consistent with the constitutional framework governing federal elections. States retain full authority to administer their own elections, and the SAVE America Act respects that authority while ensuring that the federal ballot is protected by a uniform, enforceable standard.

Second, the SAVE America Act does not impose barriers to voting access. Only American citizens can legally vote in American elections. As chief law enforcement officers of our states, we know that the honor system is not always the best answer. Law enforcement must be able to enforce laws. We cannot trust that everyone will always do the right thing; this is why enforceable laws are necessary in the first place. Federal law has long prohibited non-citizens from voting in federal elections. But existing voter registration procedures largely rely on the honor system, with voters simply checking a box to claim U.S.

citizenship without requiring any documentary verification. The SAVE America Act closes this gap by amending the National Voter Registration Act to require that applicants provide documentary proof of United States citizenship before being registered to vote in any federal election.

Third, the SAVE America Act does not disenfranchise American citizens. The Supreme Court has long recognized that states, and by extension Congress, possess broad authority to establish reasonable conditions for voter registration, provided those conditions do not unconstitutionally discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or other protected characteristics. The SAVE America Act satisfies this standard. It applies equally to all registrants and does not disenfranchise. It is an insult to suggest that minorities, women, or members of the working class are not smart enough to obtain and provide simple proofs of citizenship and photo identification as established in the bill text.

The right to vote in a federal election belongs exclusively to citizens of the United States. The SAVE America Act ensures that right is protected.

**Respectfully,**

**THE AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE ATTORNEYS GENERAL COUNCIL**

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Attorney General of Iowa

**Marty Jackley**  
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