

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,

On behalf of the America First Policy Institute's Governors' Council, we write in strong support of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act. We believe that protecting the security of American elections is among the most basic responsibilities and fundamental duties of those elected to represent the American people. The SAVE America Act is a commonsense measure seeking to ensure that American elections are decided by, and only by, American citizens.

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires states to provide a federal voter registration form at the time an individual applies for a driver's license or for state benefits. While only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in federal elections, states are not required to verify citizenship at the time of registration. Moreover, 36 states, including many that we govern, require photo identification to vote. That leaves 14 states with little to no safeguards to verify who is casting a ballot in federal elections. States with large illegal populations and little to no safeguards to verify who is casting a ballot in federal elections unfairly hold undue influence in our Nation's law-making process and how billions of dollars in tax revenue are distributed.

As governors, we also understand the principles of federalism at play in elections. However, at times Congress properly enacts laws governing federal elections without overstepping into state jurisdiction—the NVRA, Help America Vote Act, and Civil Rights Act of 1964 are a few examples. We agree that this bill falls within the proper limits of federal jurisdiction over election law and that its provisions will strengthen state processes without interfering with state election authority.

We recognize that implementation of the SAVE America Act must be carried out appropriately, with adequate resources and reasonable timelines. We are committed to partnering with our state election officials to ensure that no eligible American citizen is unduly burdened in exercising their right to vote, and that no ineligible registrant can jeopardize an American citizen's vote by their presence on our voter rolls.

Our constituents deserve to know that their votes are protected and that elections in this country are free, fair, and secure. As governors, we have seen firsthand the continued erosion of American confidence in the electoral process. We respectfully urge the United States Senate to act swiftly and pass the SAVE America Act.

Respectfully,

THE AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE GOVERNORS' COUNCIL



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