



April 28, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate SR-317
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Chairman McConnell:

As the Senate prepares to reconvene, you have an opportunity to reaffirm one of the bedrock principles of our republic: that only American citizens should be voting in our elections. The SAVE Act is a commonsense measure that will build trust and confidence in the democratic process by requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. This crucial bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives and deserves prompt and serious consideration in the Senate.

According to a recent Gallup poll, 83% of Americans support proof of citizenship requirements when registering to vote. Voters in eight states enshrined citizen-only voting in their state constitutions last year, all by wide margins. The public overwhelmingly demands secure elections that prevent illegal voting by noncitizens.

Unfortunately, current federal law leaves our elections exposed to noncitizen voting. Judicial interpretation of the National Voter Registration Act has tied states' hands, preventing them from requiring proof of citizenship for all voters in federal elections. As a result, voter registration operates on an honor system. All a noncitizen needs to do is check a box indicating he or she is a citizen to be added to a voter roll.

The evidence clearly shows that noncitizens are able to register and vote. In 2018, the Department of Justice charged 19 noncitizens with illegally registering and voting. Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson recently announced 15 noncitizens voted there in 2024. Officials in Ohio, Texas, and Virginia recently identified significant numbers of noncitizens on their voter rolls and reported that many appear to have voted in recent years. Many races are decided by razor-thin margins — sometimes by a single vote. Each illegal vote cancels out the voice of a lawful citizen voter.

The SAVE Act would address these vulnerabilities by requiring that voter registrants provide documentary proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, a passport, a naturalization certificate, or a REAL ID driver's license that notes citizenship status. Millions of Americans already present these documents when obtaining a REAL ID or to fulfill similar identification requirements in daily life.

Opponents of the SAVE Act rely on a familiar litany of debunked and misleading arguments. Critics contend it will disenfranchise voters. These same claims have been made about voter ID laws for decades but were never borne out. One widely repeated accusation is that married women who change



their name would be unable to vote. In fact, the SAVE Act's built-in safeguards specifically require states to establish a process to resolve these discrepancies by providing additional documentation, such as a marriage license. By the same token, alternative evidence of citizenship could be offered by any American who may lack common records.

The SAVE Act is a commonsense solution that will ensure it is easy to vote, but hard to cheat. I urge you to quickly bring this critical measure to the floor and allow every Senator to go on record supporting the fundamental principle that only American citizens should vote in federal elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Snead". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Snead".

Jason Snead
Executive Director
Honest Elections Project Action