



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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May 12, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act – OPPOSE

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff:

I write today on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to express our opposition to H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. We have several concerns with the changes proposed by this bill: the SAVE Act risks disenfranchising thousands of eligible California citizens; it will significantly increase the cost of election administration at the local level; and, the SAVE Act may impose criminal penalties on officials who are simply fulfilling their legal duties.

The SAVE Act's current language mandates that voters must personally visit an elections office with documents to establish proof of citizenship when registering to vote, either by the registration deadline or when using same-day registration. This provision could create substantial obstacles for numerous California residents, including approximately 165,000 military and overseas voters, an estimated 187,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, and many among the 4.1 million voters with disabilities who may be housebound. Furthermore, certain demographic groups—married women, racial minorities, senior citizens, and young voters—might encounter specific difficulties in securing and presenting the required documentation, potentially discouraging registration updates and effectively disenfranchising otherwise eligible voters. Additionally, requiring documented proof of citizenship will require added time, people and space that will impose increased costs on counties. According to the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), a single California county may receive hundreds or thousands of registration updates per day from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the United States Postal Service, public agencies, and other sources. This new requirement is an unexpected financial responsibility that counties like ours would be required to absorb in already strained fiscal circumstances. And, as described above, it cannot be emphasized enough the risk of disenfranchisement for many of our residents.

We urge you to vote no on H.R. 22 and oppose its passage or advancement in any internal discussions, floor votes, or negotiations with the House. Thank you for your continued support of important matters impacting residents of the County of Monterey.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District



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