

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Press Conference on Senate Democrats' Task Force on Elections

April 29, 2026

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you, Leader Schumer. Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, so I'm glad to join Senator Schumer's task force on elections to make sure that this year we fight in the United States of America to preserve that right.

This is a serious issue, as we know, because of the SAVE Act, because we know that our colleagues misunderstand how vote by mail works today and why it's secure and increases turnout in America, and instead, are trying to suppress the vote.

We know this: that civil rights and civil liberties are under attack. I didn't think, as somebody who grew up in the 60s, that that's what we'd be fighting for in 2026, but that is exactly what we are fighting for, our civil rights and civil liberties.

Just like in Minnesota, when they wanted the right to express themselves, now we are fighting to just have a fair process so we can cast our vote in the next election. This task force is going to up our efforts to make sure that Americans keep that civil liberty and civil right [to vote].

And we are disappointed that the Supreme Court decision has raised the standard on having to prove discrimination in a redistricting case and created an erosion of the [Voting] Rights Act.

Our colleagues should speak up. Either they believe in defending our Constitution on these civil liberties and defend our right to vote in free and fair elections, or they are going to continue to cower and create an erosion of those civil liberties.

Now is the time for this task force and all Americans to join us in making sure your voice is heard and counted in a fair process.