

Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey
Voting Rights Press Conference, February 18, 2026

Election administrators would love to be able to say that every registered voter in their jurisdiction is a US citizen. However, in an attempt to achieve that goal, the SAVE [America] Act would place an unreasonable burden on citizens. The SAVE [America] Act would also significantly increase elect administrators work without providing any additional funding for that increased expense.

In Washington, the SAVE [America] Act would likely result in two different types of voters, voting, two different types of ballots, ballots that were only for local and state offices, and then ballots that were for federal offices as well as local and state offices. This would not only increase election expenses, but also would dramatically increase confusion by voters.

The vast majority of new registrations occur at the Department of Licensing. The SAVE [America] Act would require driver's license applicants to provide documentary proof of citizenship before they were registered to vote. This would decrease the number of people who registered to vote.

The SAVE [America] Act requires these changes be put into effect immediately. This would be a significant challenge to comply with that requirement.

Voting is a constitutional right, a barrier to the exercise of constitutional right should only be enacted if the government's compelling interest is greater than the citizen's individual constitutional right, the government's interest in ensuring that only US citizens vote would not be significantly enhanced by the SAVE [America] Act.

My 28 years of elections administration experience has convinced me that the number of non-citizens voting in Washington has been extremely small. I have never seen evidence that large numbers of non-citizens are voting anywhere in our country.

However, the SAVE [America] Act would create significant barriers to registering to vote for many people, millions of us, citizens, do not have a birth certificate or passport readily available.

There are many women who, when they married, change their name and do not have a passport with their current name.

I understand some people are concerned that non-citizens are voting. If the federal government wants to ensure that only US citizens are voting, then establishing and maintaining a registry, an accurate registry, of US citizens, and providing documentation of that status would be much better than enacting the barriers that the SAVE [America] Act would create. So thank you again.