

## LEGISLATION ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE VOTING

Katie Maddocks, Legislative and Political Director



The ability to participate in elections is the most basic form of civic engagement. It allows eligible Americans to decide who will represent them at every level of government, making policy decisions impacting daily life. There has been a recent narrative, however, that voter fraud is rampant across the country. As a response, the House and Senate have introduced legislation that would require stricter proof of eligibility; impact the use of vote by mail and absentee ballots; and, move to a nationalized system of voting.

The SAVE America Act, S. 1383, as amended, would require all Americans to provide “documentary proof of citizenship” to change their voter registration, despite the fact that current laws already require verification of voter eligibility. This means that people moving or otherwise changing their voter registration would have to present documents like a passport, birth certificate, adoption certificate, or naturalization papers. Millions of people do not have easy access to these documents. Further, people who change their name, including married women, would have a hard time proving their citizenship because the name on their ID often does not match the name on their birth certificate. The bill also eliminates universal mail voting and voter registration by requiring people to submit proof of citizenship in person. Eight states and the District of Columbia already require universal vote by mail, while ten states offer permanent absentee voting. S. 1383 also would require Americans to have to request a mail ballot every single time they want to vote by mail — superseding these states’ laws.

Additionally, the House introduced the Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act, H.R. 4700, which also calls for election reforms at the federal level. The bill calls to ban universal vote by mail and ranked choice voting; prohibits ballots from being counted after the close of polls; and makes it easier to purge voter rolls.

As a reminder, the Constitution gives power to states’ legislatures to determine how elections are conducted. This provides a needed check and balance over federal influence on elections.

When these bills were introduced, sponsors often cited the need to curb voter fraud. However, there is no evidence of overwhelming voter fraud that would actually impact the outcome of elections. The Heritage Foundation issued reports on voter fraud and found that during the 2024 elections, there were only forty-three cases of voter fraud that led to criminal conviction throughout the country. In 2020, there were thirty-one. Voter fraud is the intentional misuse of the electoral process to alter the outcome of elections. Most incidents the Heritage

**The National Postal Mail Handlers Union is keenly aware of the safety of elections, especially vote by mail. Vote by mail has repeatedly shown to be an effective way to partake in democracy.**

Foundation cited were more due to voter registration errors or an individual not knowing they are ineligible to vote.

Allegations of voter fraud instill doubt in the safety of elections and undermine voter confidence. Continual talk of illegitimate election results can turn voters away from polls, weakening the democratic process.

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union is keenly aware of the safety of elections, especially vote by mail. Vote by mail has repeatedly shown to be an effective way to partake in democracy. In the past three federal elections, a combined 288.4 million ballots were processed by the United States Postal Service. USPS conducts extraordinary measures during elections, prioritizing ballots, complying with local election laws, and delivering ballots to and from voters and elections boards on an average of three to five days.

These bills do nothing to protect elections, and NPMHU will continue to speak out against them.