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Responsive
Government



State-by-State In-Person
**VOTER ID CHANGES
REQUIRED UNDER
THE SAVE
AMERICA ACT**

With the SAVE America Act unlikely to reach the 60-vote threshold needed in the Senate, House Republicans have discussed using the reconciliation process to enact election policy changes. In late June, House Speaker Mike Johnson stated:

The only path, I think, to get [the SAVE America Act] done, because you're never going to get seven Democrats to join 53 Republicans in the Senate to do that ... you have to put it on a reconciliation bill. We believe that if you create a grant program that ties it to reconciling the budget, and you allow blue states, if they come to their senses and they want to avail themselves of election integrity proposals and ideas and policies, they can draw down from a federal fund, and use those funds.

A media report several days later stated that, "House Republican leaders...want to create a \$4 billion grant program to incentivize states to have citizenship and voter ID requirements." On July 15, the House released its budget resolution, the first step in a reconciliation process. The resolution provides for up to \$10 billion in spending under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration, an amount that appears to be for election policy-related matters.

As is standard, the budget resolution does not contain any details on policy changes, as those come in the final legislation that can only proceed after both chambers pass the same budget resolution. It is unclear whether this budget resolution can pass the House or Senate, and the prospects of a final bill that would enact actual policy changes under this resolution are even less certain.

This analysis focuses on what steps states across the country and the ideological spectrum would have to take to overhaul their election laws to qualify for a grant program tied to the ID requirements proposed in the SAVE America Act. This analysis does not touch on the documentary proof of citizenship requirements in the SAVE America Act, nor the bill's requirement for mail ballot voter ID, which very few states currently require.

Currently, not a single state meets the restrictive ID criteria in the bill, though Ohio comes close. Meeting these requirements would reduce voter access in nearly every state, pull resources from other critical election infrastructure and security priorities, create significant bureaucratic burdens for voters and administrators alike, and override policies that have been carefully tailored by state legislatures to fit the populations of their states.

In large, rural states like Alaska where residents may have to travel to vote, having flexible backup ID options is critical when many voters have an eligible ID but may have simply forgotten to bring it with them. In a 2021 study in Michigan, researchers found that of voters who signed an affidavit of identity due to lack of photo ID, more than 95% were in the DMV database and had been issued a Michigan license or state ID card; they just did not have it with them at the polls.

Below is a comparison of [current voter ID requirements](#) in each state. For reference, here are the only forms of ID that would be accepted under the [SAVE America Act](#):¹

- 1

A valid State-issued motor vehicle driver’s license that includes a photo of the individual and an expiration date.
- 2

A valid State-issued identification card that includes a photo of the individual and an expiration date issued by a State motor vehicle authority.
- 3

A valid United States passport for the individual.
- 4

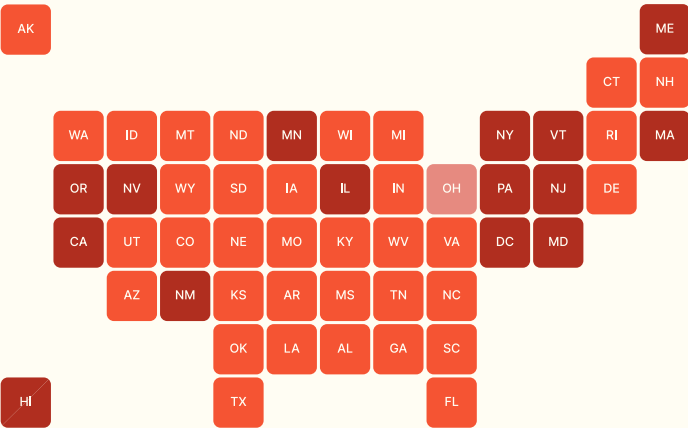
A valid military identification for the individual.
- 5

A valid identification document issued by a Tribal government that includes a photo of the individual and an expiration date.

Only one state, **Ohio**, would have to make only minor tweaks to its election law to receive funds under such a proposal, as its current ID standard closely mirrors the SAVE America Act.

35 other states that already have photo ID or other document requirement frameworks would be forced to make major revisions to state law, further narrowing their approved ID options. These changes would include banning a wide variety of ID types: most concealed carry permits, local government employee IDs, government IDs issued by non-DMV agencies including many states’ voter ID cards, student IDs, non-photo alternatives paired with other identifiers, and flexible fallback provisions.

14 states (plus Washington, D.C.) would have to entirely overhaul their “no document” signature-matching protocols and their use of non-photo alternative documents to access funds from such a program. In these states, [election officials still verify](#) each voter’s identity before issuing a ballot. Depending on the state’s law, voters may be required to state their name and address (and sometimes their date of birth), sign a poll book or affidavit under penalty of law, or both. Election officials then compare the information or signature the voter provides with the voter registration record, registration list, or electronic poll book, depending on the state. In many states that require a signature or signed affidavit, election officials also compare the voter’s signature with all signatures they have submitted when renewing drivers licenses and updating their voter registration. Every state also provides a way for election officials, poll watchers, or other individuals to challenge a voter’s identity or eligibility when appropriate.



¹In addition to passing the SAVE America Act, the House may take up the recently introduced [Voter ID Act](#), which the Committee on House Administration approved on a party line vote on June 24. That bill’s text is identical to the voter ID section of the SAVE America Act, and while it may attract more Senate support than the SAVE America Act, it is similarly extremely unlikely to garner the necessary 60 votes.

State-by-State In-Person Voter ID Laws vs. SAVE America Act

State	Current Voter ID Framework	Changes Required to Comply with SAVE America Act Acceptable IDs
Alabama	Non-Strict Photo ID: Accepts AL driver's license/state ID, AL photo voter ID card, other state's ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, government employee ID, and student ID. Fallback allows 2 election officials to vouch for the voter.	Remove government employee badges and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs along with the option for election officials to vouch for a voter that they know to be eligible.
Alaska	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Accepts voter registration card, driver's license, state ID, any "current and valid photo identification," passport, birth certificate, hunting/fishing license, utility bill, bank statement, or paycheck. Fallback allows officials to waive ID if they know the voter.	Remove all non-photo documents (birth certificates, utility bills, bank statements, hunting licenses) as well as any non-state issued photo IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, along with the personal recognition waiver by election officials.
Arizona	Strict Non-Photo ID: Requires 1 valid photo ID (DL, state ID, tribal card, federal/state/local government ID) OR 2 non-photo documents (utility bill, bank statement, vehicle registration, property tax statement).	Remove the option to vote using "two non-photo documents" and to use local government IDs without an expiration date from the list of acceptable IDs.
Arkansas	Strict Photo ID: Requires photo ID issued by the U.S., AR state, or an AR college (DL, passport, student/AR college employee ID, military ID, AR voter verification card, concealed carry license, public assistance photo ID). Digital formats are allowed.	Remove concealed carry licenses, college IDs, and public assistance photo cards from the list of acceptable IDs. Restrict digital IDs unless they strictly mirror physical DMV/expiration standards.
California	No Document Required: Identity is verified entirely via signature matching against voter registration records; no physical ID document is required at the polls.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Colorado	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Accepts CO driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, government employee ID, tribal ID, higher ed student ID, pilot's license, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other government-issued documents. Digital IDs are allowed.	Remove non-photo options (utility bills, bank statements, paychecks), pilot's licenses, student IDs, and employee badges from the list of acceptable IDs, along with other fallback options for in-person voting.
Connecticut	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Requests Social Security card, credit card, utility bill, or pre-printed form showing name and address. Fallback allows signing an identity affidavit.	Remove Social Security cards, credit cards, and utility bills from the list of acceptable IDs along with the affidavit fallback option.
Delaware	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Asks for general non-photo "proof of identity." Fallback allows the voter to sign an affidavit of affirmation to vote a regular ballot.	Remove non-photo proofs of identity from the list of acceptable IDs along with the affidavit fallback option.
District of Columbia	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature matching; no separate identification document is required at the polling place.	Would require a complete overhaul of D.C. law.

State	Current Voter ID Framework	Changes Required to Comply with SAVE America Act Acceptable IDs
Florida	Non-Strict Photo ID: Currently accepts FL driver's license/state ID, passport, student ID, debit/credit card with photo, military ID, retirement center ID, neighborhood association ID, public assistance ID, government employee ID, VA veteran health ID, or concealed weapon license. Starting in 2027, only a FL driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, VA veteran health ID, concealed weapon license, or other government-issued photo ID will be accepted.	Through December 2026, Florida permits the use of student IDs, credit cards, retirement/neighborhood association IDs, and public assistance cards, which would all be disallowed under the SAVE America Act. Starting in 2027, the SAVE America would still require removing a concealed weapon license, VA veteran health IDs, and any other non-DMV issued government ID card from the list of acceptable IDs. Would also require removing the state's automatic provisional ballot verification via signature match.
Georgia	Strict Photo ID: Requires GA driver's license (accepted even if expired), state/federal government ID, free voter ID, passport, military ID, or tribal ID.	Remove expired Georgia driver's licenses, government employee badges, and free voter ID cards issued by the state and county from the list of acceptable IDs.
Hawaii	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature match and personal data confirmation in the poll book; no physical document is required.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Idaho	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests ID driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, Concealed carry weapon license, or tribal photo ID (student IDs were removed by state law). Fallback allows signing an identity affidavit.	Remove concealed carry weapon license and eliminate the extant affidavit fallback option.
Illinois	No Document Required: Identity is verified through signature matching against registration records; no separate ID document is required.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Indiana	Strict Photo ID: Requires unexpired ID issued by Indiana or the U.S. containing a photo, name, and expiration date. If expired, the ID is still accepted if expired after the most recent general election. Military and tribal IDs do not need an expiration date.	Remove acceptance of military and tribal IDs without an expiration date, and several otherwise qualifying military or tribal IDs currently do not have an expiration date.
Iowa	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Accepts IA driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, veteran ID, or a non-photo voter identification card. Fallback allows another voter to vouch.	Remove non-photo voter cards and potentially veteran IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, as well as the option to have another voter vouch at the polls.
Kansas	Strict Photo ID: Requires driver's license/ID from Kansas or another state, passport, military ID, student ID, concealed carry license, government employee ID, public assistance ID, or tribal ID.	Remove concealed carry licenses, government employee badges, student IDs, public assistance ID, and potentially out-of-state driver's licenses, from the list of acceptable IDs.
Kentucky	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests KY driver's license/state ID, military ID, passport, or photo ID issued by a U.S., state/local government, or school/college. Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove local government employee badges and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, as well as the affidavit fallback option.
Louisiana	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests LA driver's license/state ID, military ID, or other recognized photo ID with name and signature (including digital formats). Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove general non-DMV photo IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, as well as the affidavit fallback option.

State	Current Voter ID Framework	Changes Required to Comply with SAVE America Act Acceptable IDs
Maine	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature and voter roll checks; no physical document is required to vote at the box.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Maryland	No Document Required: Identity is verified via matching voter info against records; no separate ID document is required for standard voters.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Massachusetts	No Document Required: Identity is verified via verbal confirmation of name and address checked against the voter list; no physical document is required.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Michigan	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests MI driver's license/state ID, federal/state/local government photo ID, passport, military ID, student photo ID, or tribal photo ID. Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove local government employee IDs and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, as well as the affidavit fallback option.
Minnesota	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature match and registration records; no separate ID document is required at the polls.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Mississippi	Strict Photo ID: Requires MS driver's license/state ID, passport, government employee ID, military ID, tribal ID, student ID from a MS college, MS voter ID cards, or a firearms permit.	Remove firearms permits, MS voter ID cards, student IDs, and government employee IDs from the list of acceptable IDs.
Missouri	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests unexpired MO driver's license/state ID, passport, or military ID. Fallback allows voting a provisional ballot validated via automatic signature check.	Remove non-DMV government IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, revise expiration policies and remove the ability to validate provisional ballots cast without ID via signature matching.
Montana	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests MT driver's license/state ID, military ID, passport, tribal photo ID, student photo ID, or concealed carry permit. Fallback allows signature/provisional check.	Remove concealed carry permits and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, end use of two alternative forms of identification (utility bill, bank statement, etc.), one of which must have a photo, and remove the ability to validate provisional ballots cast without ID via signature matching.
Nebraska	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests NE driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal photo ID, state college ID, or political subdivision employee ID. Fallback allows a reasonable impediment affidavit.	Remove local political subdivision employee IDs, and Hospital, state college IDs assisted living facility, nursing home, hospice, provider agency for home or community-based developmental disability services or any other intermediate care facility record IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, along with removing the "reasonable impediment" affidavit fallback.
Nevada	No Document Required: Identity is checked strictly by comparing the voter's signature at the polls against the signature on their voter registration application.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
New Hampshire	Strict Photo ID: Requires NH driver's license/state ID, passport, or military ID. Fallback relies on a lead poll worker verification or immediate court appeal.	Remove Voter ID card from the list of acceptable IDs, revise expiration requirements, and abolish fallback procedures where election officials verify a voter's identity.

State	Current Voter ID Framework	Changes Required to Comply with SAVE America Act Acceptable IDs
New Jersey	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature match against registration records; no separate document is required to vote.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
New Mexico	No Document Required: Identity is verified by asking the voter to state their name, registration address, and birth year; no physical document is required.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
New York	No Document Required: Identity is verified through signature matching against the voter's signature on file; no physical ID document is required.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
North Carolina	Strict Photo ID: Requires NC driver's license/state ID, passport, military/veteran ID, tribal card, approved student ID, public assistance ID, or approved public employee ID. Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove public employee IDs, public assistance IDs, student IDs, and veteran IDs, revise expiration requirements, and abolish the "reasonable impediment" affidavit fallback.
North Dakota	Strict Non-Photo ID: Requires ND driver's license, state ID, or tribal ID. If missing current name/address, can supplement with utility bills, bank statements, or paychecks.	Remove non-photo supplemental documents (utility bills, bank statements, paychecks) to meet voting requirements.
Ohio	Strict Photo ID: Requires an unexpired OH driver's license, state ID card, U.S. passport, or military ID card. A front and back copy of an otherwise acceptable ID is allowed	Mostly Unaffected: Ohio's state law is tightly aligned with SAVE America, but would have to remove a front and back copy of an otherwise acceptable ID from the list of acceptable IDs.
Oklahoma	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Requests photo ID (DL, state ID, passport, military ID) OR a non-photo voter registration card. Fallback allows provisional ballot with signature check.	Remove non-photo voter registration cards and non-DMV issued government IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, and remove the ability to validate provisional ballots cast without ID via an affidavit and additional matching.
Oregon	No Document Required: Conducts all elections via mail; however, for in-person voting or identification verification, identity is established via signature matching.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Pennsylvania	No Document Required: First-time voters must show ID, but regular in-person voters do not provide documents; they verify identity via signature match.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Rhode Island	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests RI driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, student ID, state voter ID cards, certain medical cards, or government employee ID. Fallback allows provisional voting with signature check.	Remove government employee badges and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs and remove the signature matching fallback for provisional ballots.
South Carolina	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests SC driver's license/state ID, passport, military photo ID, tribal photo ID, or photo voter registration card. Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove voter registration card from the list of acceptable IDs and also remove the "reasonable impediment" affidavit exception.

State	Current Voter ID Framework	Changes Required to Comply with SAVE America Act Acceptable IDs
South Dakota	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests SD driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, concealed weapons permits, or a student photo ID from an SD college/high school. Fallback allows an affidavit.	Remove concealed weapons permits and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, as well as the affidavit fallback option.
Tennessee	Strict Photo ID: Requires TN driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, or federal/state/local government employee ID (student and digital IDs are already banned).	Remove Tennessee handgun carry permit and government employee badges from list of acceptable IDs.
Texas	Non-Strict Photo ID: Requests TX driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, tribal card, or concealed handgun license. Fallback allows an affidavit + non-photo ID (utility bill, birth certificate).	Remove U.S. citizenship certificates from the list of acceptable IDs and the Reasonable Impediment Declaration fallback which allows for the use of supplemental non-photo documents (utility bills, bank statements) to confirm identity, along with revisions to expiration requirements.
Utah	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Requests 1 photo ID (DL, state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID) OR 2 non-photo documents (utility bill, bank statement, SSN card, birth certificate). Fallback allows signature check.	Remove the "two non-photo documents" option and Bureau of Indian Affairs cards, tribal treaty cards, and valid tribal ID cards regardless of whether they have photos from the list of acceptable IDs, also revise the validation process for provisional ballots.
Vermont	No Document Required: Identity is verified via signature match against registration records; no separate ID document is required at the polling place.	Would require a complete overhaul of state law.
Virginia	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Requests VA driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, student ID, employee ID, utility bill, bank statement, or paycheck. Fallback allows signing an ID affirmation.	Remove employer badges, utility bills, student IDs, bank statements, paychecks, and other flexible options from the list of acceptable IDs. And remove the affirmation fallback option.
Washington	Non-Strict Non-Photo ID: Conducts elections by mail, but for in-person voting, accepts WA driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, student ID, or employer ID.	Remove employer IDs and student IDs from the list of acceptable IDs, and remove the signature affirmation procedure for voters who cannot provide ID.
West Virginia	Photo ID Required: Requests WV driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, WV voter registration card, student ID, employee ID. Fallback allows a signature affidavit.	Remove state employee badges, student IDs, concealed carry permits, voter registration cards (available for free for residents who submit a form signed under penalty of perjury in person at a state or county office), and public assistance cards from the list of acceptable IDs and eliminate the signature affidavit fallback.
Wisconsin	Strict Photo ID: Requires WI or other state's driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, veteran ID, or an unexpired university/college student ID (with separate proof of enrollment).	Remove certificate of naturalization, student IDs, and veteran health IDs (unless qualifying as federal military ID) from the list of acceptable IDs.
Wyoming	Strict Non-Photo ID: Requires WY or other state driver's license/state ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID, student ID, concealed carry permits, or a Medicare/Medicaid card.	Remove concealed carry permits, student IDs, and Medicare/Medicaid cards from the list of acceptable IDs.

TO RECAP

The SAVE America Act's voter ID provisions, whether implemented as a mandate or as funding conditions, would require changes to voter ID laws in nearly every state in America. As currently drafted, the bill provides no federal funding to overhaul state and county election systems and no transition period for such changes. If restructured as a grant program, implementation would require significant funding and additional time and training for election officials and staff. This would shift authority over voter ID standards from states to the federal government. Such changes will have significant consequences on the ways that state and local governments run secure and fair elections.