

SAVE America Act: Half support citizenship-document requirements for federal voting

94% report having at least one document that could be used to prove citizenship

August 18, 2026 – A Republican-backed effort to impose new citizenship-verification requirements on federal elections has divided Americans, but new data from Angus Reid USA finds a plurality ultimately supportive of the proposed SAVE America Act.

The legislation, which passed the House 218–213 in February but has stalled in the Senate, would require documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and generally require photo identification when casting a ballot. More than half of Americans (53%) say they had heard at least something about the proposal before taking the survey, while one-in-five (21%) had heard nothing at all.

After being presented with competing arguments – that the Act would help prevent non-citizens from voting, or that it would create additional barriers for eligible citizens – Americans are split sharply over its likely impact. Half (49%) believe it would primarily help prevent non-citizens from registering or voting, compared with 37 per cent who believe it would instead make voting more difficult for eligible Americans. Those views are deeply partisan: 95 per cent of MAGA Republicans and 78 per cent of non-MAGA Republicans choose the former, while 63 per cent of Democrats choose the latter.

Beneath that division, however, is broader agreement that the status quo could be improved: only 20 per cent favour retaining the current system in which applicants attest to their citizenship under penalty of law, while seven-in-10 prefer some combination of documentary proof or government verification. Further, 94 per cent say they currently have at least one birth certificate, passport or citizenship document readily available.

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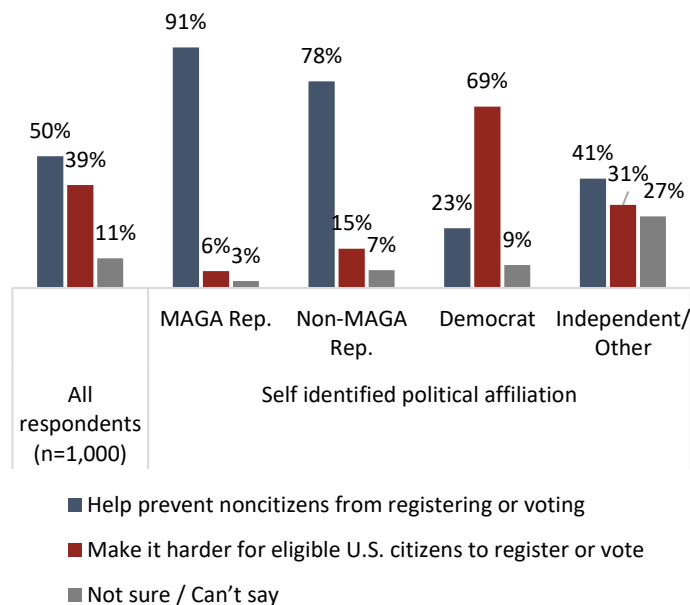
- **Intro: SAVE America Act**
- **How many have heard of it?**
- **Americans divided over what they believe the bill will do**

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Which of the following best describes what you think the SAVE America Act would be more likely to do?



METHODOLOGY:

Angus Reid USA conducted an online survey from July 31 to Aug. 5, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,000 American adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum USA](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by Angus Reid.

- **Half support it after considering the debates**
- **Nearly all say they have at least one form of documentation available**
- **Most say improvements are needed over current declaration system**

Intro: SAVE America Act

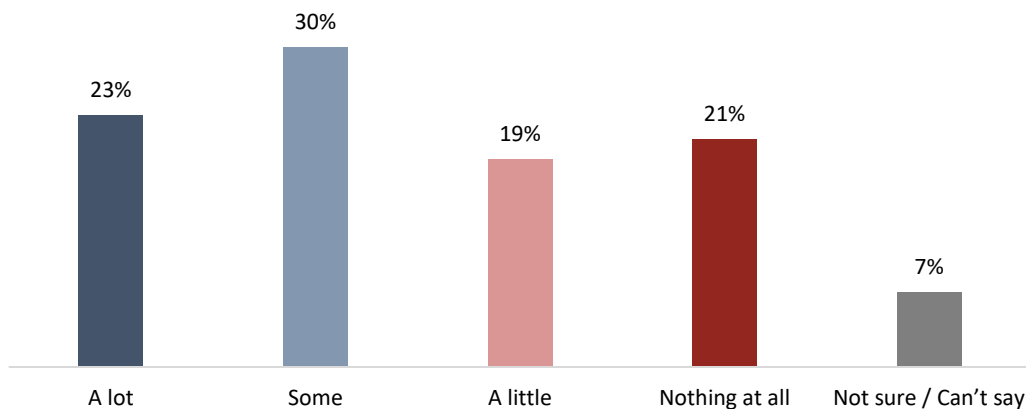
The SAVE America Act, short for the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, is Republican-backed federal legislation that would establish new nationwide requirements for voting in federal elections. Introduced in the House of Representatives in January 2026, the bill would require Americans to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and generally require photo identification when casting a ballot.

The Republican-controlled House passed the SAVE America Act 218–213 on Feb. 11, but the legislation has since stalled in the Senate, where Republicans do not currently have the 60 votes generally needed to overcome a filibuster. Trump has repeatedly urged Senate Republicans to pass the legislation and has called for changes to Senate rules, if necessary, but lawmakers left Washington for their August recess without advancing it. Republican leaders are expected to revisit election legislation when the Senate returns in September.

How many have heard of it?

More than half of Americans say they had heard at least something about the SAVE America Act before taking this survey, including 23 per cent who had heard “a lot” and 30 per cent who had heard “some.” Another 19 per cent had heard only a little, while approximately one-in-five (21%) say they had heard nothing at all.

Before today, how much had you seen, read or heard about the SAVE America Act?



Americans divided over what they believe the bill will do

Supporters, including President Donald Trump, argue the measures are necessary to prevent non-citizens from participating in federal elections, while opponents say existing law already prohibits non-citizen voting and warn the new documentation requirements could make it more difficult for some eligible

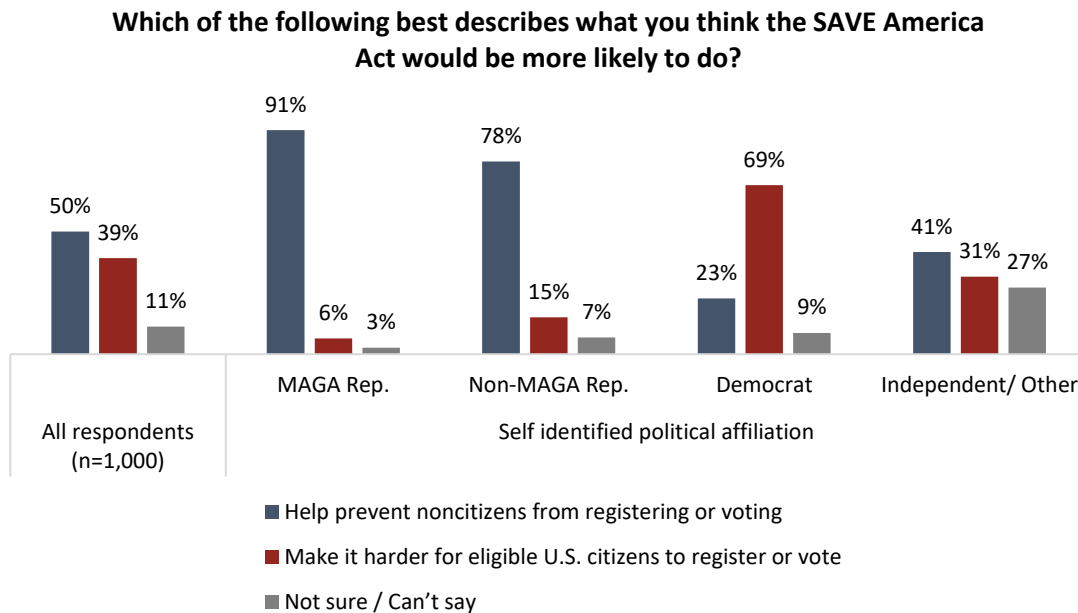
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Americans to vote. While cases of non-citizens voting have been identified, available research and state election audits indicate the practice is exceedingly rare.

Asked to choose between those two debates, half say it will reduce non-citizen voting, while two-in-five (39%) say it will increase the difficulty for U.S. citizens to cast their ballot:



Half support it after considering the debates

Respondents were asked at the beginning of the survey whether they supported or opposed the SAVE Act, and then later, after considering two lines of reasoning, were asked again.

Question text:

“Some say only U.S. citizens should vote, and election officials should verify citizenship using documents rather than relying on applicants to declare that they are citizens.

Others say noncitizen voting is already illegal and rare, while requiring additional documents could make it harder for eligible U.S. citizens to register and vote.”

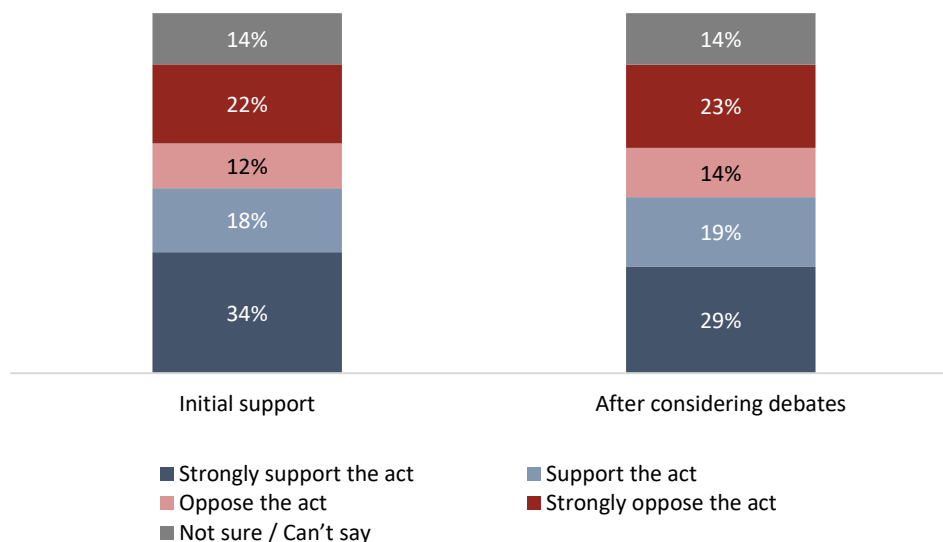
Initial support drops from 51 to 49 per cent after considering these statements, with opposition settling at 37 per cent.

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Support for SAVE America Act:



Support and opposition fall heavily along partisan lines, though it is notable that 23 per cent of Democrats support the Act. Opposition outpaces support among 18-to-34-year-olds, while older Americans lean toward support:

Having considered both perspectives about the SAVE America Act, would you say you...?								
	All respondents (n=1,000)	Age			Self identified political affiliation			
		18-34	35-54	55+	MAGA Rep.	Non-MAGA Rep.	Dem	Ind./ Other
Strongly support the act	29%	16%	25%	45%	85%	58%	6%	18%
Support the act	19%	22%	21%	15%	10%	20%	17%	16%
Oppose the act	14%	20%	12%	10%	1%	9%	19%	17%
Strongly oppose the act	23%	23%	24%	22%	0%	3%	44%	15%
Not sure / Can't say	14%	19%	18%	7%	3%	10%	13%	33%

Nearly all say they have at least one form of documentation available

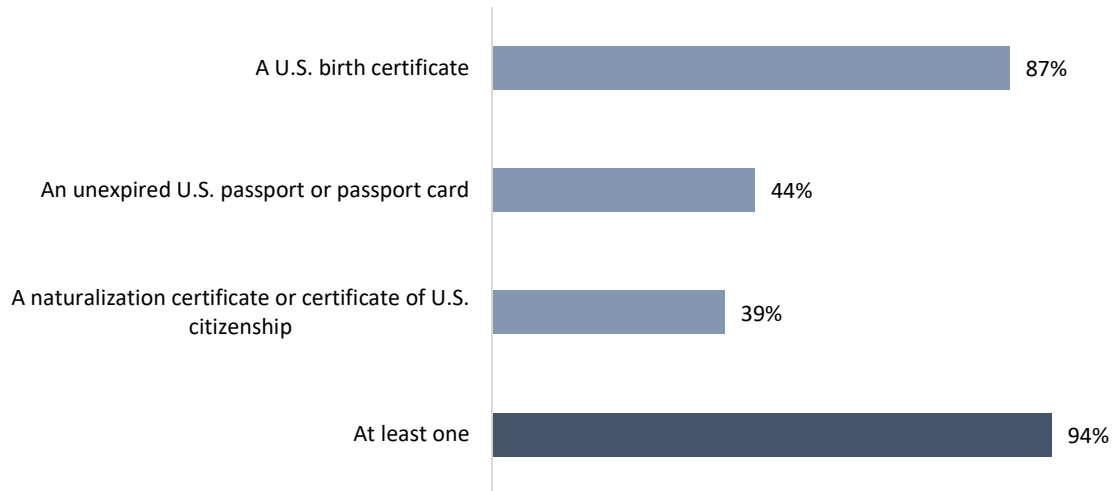
One of the arguments proponents have made is that the barrier to satisfying new rules would not be high. For approximately 94 per cent of the adult population, this appears to be true. This group says they have at least one of a U.S. birth certificate, an unexpired passport, or a naturalization certificate, that they would be able to present in order to vote.

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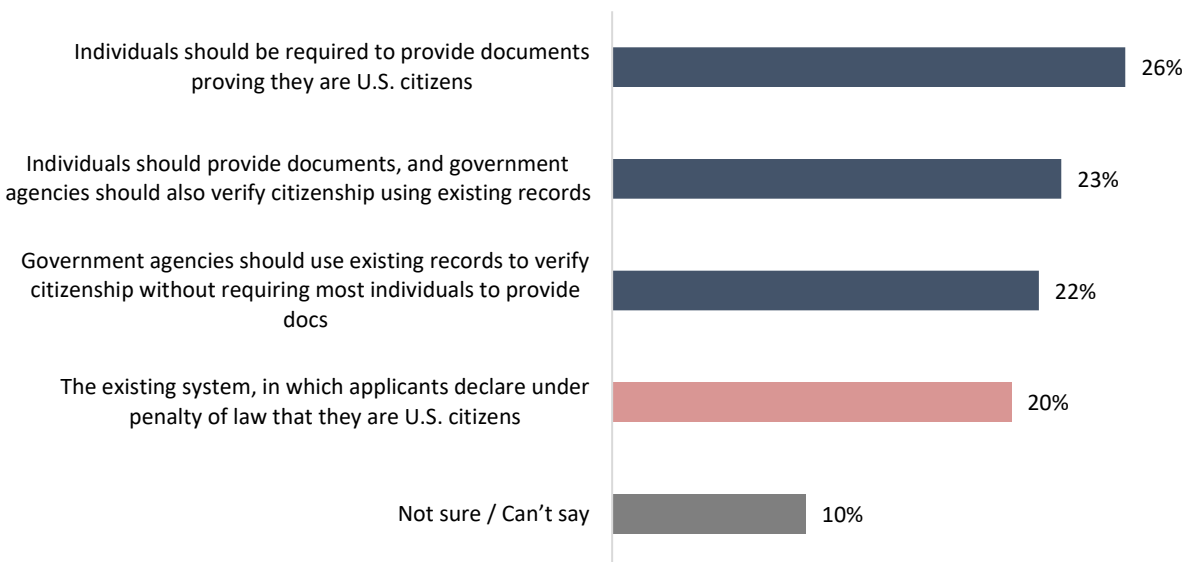
Do you currently have at least one of the following documents readily available?



Most say improvements are needed over current declaration system

Regardless of where this debate goes and whether the SAVE Act is ultimately passed into law, there is a sense among Americans that something more needs to be done in order to secure elections. Just one-in-five say that the existing system is fine. Others are divided between feeling documentation or other verification measures should be required:

Which of the following approaches to verifying U.S. citizenship when people register to vote in federal elections comes closest to your own view?



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here.](#)

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