

Voter Purge Protection Act

*Introduced by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration*

Background: The U.S. Constitution reserves election administration to the states and Congress, not the Executive. However, the Trump Administration is pursuing an aggressive campaign to compile sensitive data of American voters, and pressure states to use that data to purge voter rolls based on debunked conspiracy theories of widespread voter fraud. While federal courts have largely blocked President Trump's unconstitutional Executive Order 14248, ongoing actions at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) still threaten to undermine future elections by disenfranchising eligible voters.

DOJ is Coercing States for Voter Data: Since May 2025, DOJ has sent at least 38 demand letters to states for access to voter lists and sensitive information about list maintenance practices. As of October 9, DOJ has sued eight states — California, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Pennsylvania — for denying the DOJ's request for complete voter files, which include private voter data.

The Trump Administration is Building Massive Databases: DHS and SSA — with potential DOJ involvement — are building massive government databases, utilizing the DHS Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program and SSA systems. Experts and officials have warned that the overhauled SAVE Program lacks safeguards and could lead to errors when applied to voter rolls. Nevertheless, the information of more than 33 million voters has been run through this new system. In September 2025, public interest groups sued DOJ, DHS, and SSA, alleging violations of federal privacy laws and the U.S. Constitution.

The Voter Purge Threat: The Administration is working with willing or coerced states to use this new system to purge state voter lists. States that resist face the threat of litigation, not only requiring them to surrender their voter file data but potentially also allowing DOJ to compel states to remove voters, challenge state election laws and practices, and even challenge election results themselves.

The *Voter Purge Protection Act* would prevent voter purges while enabling responsible state voter roll management by:

- Amending the *National Voter Registration Act* (NVRA) to prohibit states from removing registered voters from voting rolls unless the state has obtained objective and reliable evidence that a person is ineligible to vote. The legislation would clarify that failure to vote or respond to election mail would not constitute objective and reliable evidence of a voter's ineligibility to vote;
- Allowing election officials to use state records to remove voters who have died or permanently moved out of the state;
- Requiring election officials to send a notice explaining the grounds for removal within 48 hours of removing voters from the rolls and provide public notice within 48 hours after any general program to remove voters; and
- Revising the voting procedure for a voter who failed to report a change of address by allowing a voter who moved within a state to vote at the polling place of the voter's current address or at a central location in the jurisdiction of the local voter registration office.

Cosponsors: Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Alsobrooks (D-Md.), Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Booker (D-N.J.), Duckworth (D-Ill.), Fetterman (D-Pa.), Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Hirono (D-Hawaii), Kaine (D-Va.), Kim (D-N.J.), King (I-Maine), Markey (D-Mass.), Merkley (D-Ore.), Murphy (D-Conn.), Peters (D-Mich.), Sanders (I-Vt.), Schiff (D-Calif.), Shaheen (D-N.H.), Slotkin (D-Mich.), Smith (D-Minn.), Van Hollen (D-Md.), Warren (D-Mass.), Wyden (D-Ore.)