



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RESOLUTION NO. 260129

Introduced February 19, 2026

Councilmember Ahmad

RESOLUTION

Urging the U.S. Senate to oppose the SAVE Act and reject any additional barrier to voter registration.

WHEREAS, The right to vote is a fundamental constitutional right, and election policy should protect both the integrity of elections and equal access for eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, Federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections, and robust penalties and enforcement mechanisms exist to address unlawful voting; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, and the legislation now awaits consideration by the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, The SAVE Act would condition voter registration for federal elections on additional documentary proof requirements that can operate as paperwork barriers, delaying or preventing eligible citizens from registering to vote; and

WHEREAS, These burdens would fall particularly hard on women who changed their names due to marriage or divorce, because a birth certificate may not match current identification, requiring additional certified records and creating risk of denial or delay in registration; and

WHEREAS, Such documentary hurdles would also disproportionately burden eligible voters who face cost, time, mobility, or access barriers to obtaining certified records, including seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income voters; and

WHEREAS, Naturalized citizens—who possess the same right to vote as any other citizen—may be uniquely burdened if they are required to obtain, replace, or present naturalization documentation that can be difficult, time-consuming, or costly to secure; and

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RESOLUTION NO. 260129 continued

WHEREAS, Philadelphia has a strong interest in protecting lawful voter participation and opposing draconian measures that predictably reduce registration and turnout among eligible voters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby opposes and denounces the SAVE Act, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, as legislation that would create unnecessary barriers to voter registration and risk disenfranchising eligible citizens;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Council urges the U.S. Senate to reject the SAVE Act and any similar legislation that would predictably exclude eligible voters.