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TRUMP SIGNS ORDER FOR NATIONAL VOTER LIST



ALEX BRANDON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump answers questions from reporters Tuesday after signing an executive order in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, as Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick listens.

President's move sure to face legal challenges

SEUNG MIN KIM, ALI SWENSON
AND JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to create a nationwide list of verified eligible voters and to restrict mail-in voting, a move that swiftly drew legal threats from state Democratic officials.

The order, which voting law experts say violates the Constitution by attempting to seize the power to run elections from states, is the latest in a torrent of efforts from Trump to interfere with the way Americans vote based on his false allegations of fraud.

It calls on the Department of Homeland Security, working in conjunction with the Social Security Administration, to make the list of eligible voters in each state, according to the text of the executive order released Tuesday.

It also seeks to bar the U.S. Postal Service from sending absentee ballots to those not on each state's approved list, though the president likely lacks the power to mandate what the Postal Service does.

Trump also called for ballots to have

secure envelopes with unique barcodes for tracking, according to the executive order, which was first reported by the Daily Caller.

"The cheating on mail-in voting is legendary. It's horrible what's going on," Trump said, repeating his false allegations about mail ballots as he signed the order. "I think this will help a lot with elections."

Within minutes of Trump signing the order, top elections officials in Oregon and Arizona, two states that rely heavily on mail ballots, pledged to sue. Trump is trying to illegally encroach on the right of states to run elections, they said.

"We don't need decrees from Washington, D.C.," said Tobias Read, the Democratic secretary of state in Oregon, which votes entirely by mail. "My message to the President: We'll see you in court."

Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes said the state's vote-by-mail system was designed by Republicans and delivered secure elections for decades. It's now used by 80% of voters.

"Donald Trump is attempting to pick his desired list of voters in each state with the Social Security Administration's help,"

said Fontes, a Democrat.

"We will not let this stand," he added.

Trump repeatedly lied about the outcome of the 2020 presidential campaign and the integrity of state-run elections, asserting again Tuesday that he won "three times" and continuing to cite accusations of voter fraud that numerous audits, investigations and courts have debunked.

Trump's first election executive order in March 2025 sought sweeping changes to how elections are run across the country, including adding a documentary proof-of-citizenship requirement to the federal voter registration form and requiring mailed ballots to be received at election offices by Election Day. Much of it was blocked through legal challenges brought by voting rights groups and Democratic state attorneys general who allege it's an unconstitutional power grab that would disenfranchise large groups of voters.

He also said in a February interview with a conservative podcaster that he wants to "take over" elections from Democratic-run areas.

Please see **VOTER LIST**, Page A2



ROBERT F. BUKATY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sign shows the price of gas Tuesday at a store in Freeport, Maine.

Gasoline prices eclipse \$4 a gallon average in US

Cost at pump highest since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly four years ago

WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. gas prices jumped past an average of \$4 a gallon for the first time since 2022, as the Iran war pushes fuel prices to soar worldwide.

Motor club AAA noted the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline Tuesday was \$4.02 — over a dollar more expensive than before the war began. The last time U.S. drivers collectively paid this much at the pump was nearly four

years ago, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The price is a national average, meaning drivers in some states paid well over \$4 a gallon for a while now. Prices vary from state to state due to factors ranging from nearby supply to differing tax rates. On Tuesday, according to AAA, California had the highest average at nearly \$5.89 for a gallon of regular gas. Meanwhile, Oklahoma had the lowest at about \$3.27 a gallon.

Since the U.S. and Israel launched the joint war against Iran on Feb. 28, the cost of crude oil — the main ingredient in gasoline — spiked and swung rapidly.

Please see **GAS PRICES**, Page A2