



AGENTS ARRESTED

TWO DOZEN ICE EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH CRIMES SINCE 2020, REVEALING THAT THE IMMENSE POWER THEY EXERCISE CAN LEAD TO ABUSES. **A8**

VICTORY PARADE

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SEATTLE SEAHAWKS FANS CROWD LUMEN FIELD AND THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN SEATTLE TO CELEBRATE THE TEAM'S SUPER BOWL WIN. **B1**

WASHINGTON

How a GOP bill could impact 21 million voters



Legislation facing a vote this week could make it harder for millions of Americans to vote. The point, President Donald Trump and Republicans say, is to reduce voter fraud. *Matt McClain, Washington Post*

Republicans are seeking to change the way you cast ballots.

Amber Phillips *Washington Post*

As President Donald Trump calls for sweeping changes to election law — including saying that Republicans should “take over the voting” — Republicans in Congress are planning to vote this week on the SAVE America Act, which would make massive changes to how Americans vote ahead of November’s midterms.

They want to require all Americans to prove they are citizens when registering to vote, and to show an ID when voting in person or by mail, as well as make mail voting more difficult.

Trump and Republicans say this would make voters feel more confident there’s no fraud in federal elections.

“We need elections where people aren’t able to cheat,” Trump told NBC News. “And we’re gonna do that. I’m gonna do that. I’m gonna get it done.”

There is no evidence of widespread election fraud.

There is evidence, say some nonpartisan elections experts, that this bill could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters by requiring new voters to provide documents to which tens of millions of U.S. citizens lack immediate access.

The nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center asserts the bill “is harmful to our democracy and a threat to the freedom to vote for all Americans. ... Its extreme documentation requirements would actually amount to one of the harshest voter suppression laws nationwide.”

There would be three major changes to how Americans vote. Here’s how the SAVE Act could change elections and its chance of becoming law:

1. You’d have to provide a proof of citizenship to register to vote.

Millions of Americans register to vote every year, and they are already required to verify they are citizens when they do. Under this bill, they’d have to prove it.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

“The SAVE Act would require American citizens to show documents like a passport or birth certificate to register to vote,” notes the Brennan Center, a law and policy group at the New York University School of Law.

21 MILLION

Americans lack easy access to those documents, according to an analysis by the center.

For example, those who change states, or are newly eligible to vote would have to provide proof of their citizenship, like a passport, a military ID submitted with proof of place of birth, or — when submitted alongside other documents — a birth certificate.

Newly married voters who change their last name would have to reregister to vote with all of these documents — plus provide proof as to why their current name doesn’t match their birth certificate.

About half of Americans don’t have passports, and not all Americans have a copy of their birth certificate.

“Our research shows that more than 21 million Americans lack ready access to those documents,” writes the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice.

Even some Republican election experts have questioned whether this documentation is necessary. “The premise of the SAVE Act is we need to ensure there are processes that confirm citizenship,” says Matt Germer of the R Street Institute, a conservative think tank. “But I think much of the burden of the citizenship verification should be on the government, which holds much of this data in the first place,” Germer said.

2. It requires IDs to vote nationwide.

Strong majorities of Americans, includ-

ing Democrats, support voters presenting a photo ID to cast ballots.

Only government (state, tribal or federal) IDs would be accepted. Documents to prove citizenship include:

- ▶ A REAL ID, a federally compliant DMV-issued driver license
- ▶ A passport
- ▶ A military ID with proof of U.S. birth

3. It would probably make voting by mail more difficult.

Mail-in voting is popular and safe, say election experts. Oregon established vote-by-mail as its standard mechanism for voting in 1996. Almost all states offer some form of it. Trump has voted by mail, and Republicans certainly use it, too.

But this bill would put strict restrictions on who can vote by mail without providing valid identification. Some disabled voters and active-duty troops would be exempt.

Some Republican election officials have expressed concern this takes away from states’ constitutional right to run their own elections how they best see fit.

“When I was in office,” former Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson said in a recent interview, “the number one principle of election administration was that the states run elections and Congress should be minimally involved. On the Republican side, we really believed that. It was really, really important.”

DEMOCRATS PLAN TO FILIBUSTER

The bill could pass the Republican-controlled House this week, but in the Senate, Democrats plan to block the legislation by filibustering it.

“It’s Jim Crow 2.0,” Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told MS NOW recently. “What they’re trying to do here is the same thing that was done in the South for decades to prevent people of color from voting.”

This isn’t the first time Republicans have tried to pass some version of the bill, and Trump has been increasingly vocal about election reform. Some of his ideas appear blatantly unconstitutional. But that hasn’t stopped the president from arguing for them.

MODA CENTER BILL

Will incoming owner move Blazers? Kotek has thoughts.

Governor says proposal puts state “in the ballpark” of what it will take to keep the team.

Bill Oram *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Gov. Tina Kotek said she has been in touch with incoming Trail Blazers owner Tom Dundon as questions about the franchise’s future swirl.

The two leaders have, she said, been trying to get to know each other. To learn how they’ll work together.

Her early impression? “He’s a very straightforward guy,” she said.

A Dundon-led group has an agreement in place to purchase Portland’s NBA franchise from the Paul Allen estate for \$4.25 billion. The deal is expected to be approved by the NBA’s Board of Governors this spring. However, the Texas billionaire’s intentions for the franchise remain unclear or, at minimum, dependent on the degree to which local governments step up to fund a renovation of Moda Center.

“I have appreciated (Dundon’s) frankness,” Kotek told *The Oregonian/OregonLive*. “At the end of the day, he’s a businessman. I don’t think he’s come into this with the idea that he wants to move the team. He wants a deal that makes this work for the team, and I think that’s where we’re headed.”

On Wednesday in Salem, Kotek led a coterie of public officials and business **SEE MODA CENTER BILL, A2**

IMMIGRATION

7-year-old detained by ICE meets Oregon lawmakers

The Gresham family detained for three weeks visits the Capitol and Gov. Tina Kotek.

Carlos Fuentes, Yesenia Amaro and Gosia Wozniacka
The Oregonian/OregonLive

During one of her first public outings since returning home from a Texas detention center, a 7-year-old from Gresham toured the Oregon Capitol on Wednesday with her parents, met briefly with Gov. Tina Kotek and had a wish fulfilled: a McDonald’s Happy Meal.

“They’re beyond grateful for everybody who shared their story — who didn’t stay quiet,” said Rep. Ricki Ruiz, who posted Facebook updates on the family after their arrest Jan. 16 outside a Portland hospital. “But they’re adjusting, and they are taking it one day at a time. Obviously, there’s a lot going on still in their heads with trauma.”

Yohendry De Jesus Crespo, Darianny Liseth Gonzalez de Crespo and their daughter, Diana Crespo-Gonzalez, haven’t given interviews since they arrived back in Oregon on Saturday. But they asked to meet with Ruiz, D-Gresham, who said it was great to catch up with the family and hear about how they’re doing.

SEE IMMIGRATION, A2