

## WASHINGTON

# 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.

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## 3-judge panel dismisses effort to redraw voting maps

A second lawsuit over congressional districts set to go to trial next year

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A three-judge panel overseeing a lawsuit seeking to redraw Wisconsin's congressional boundaries before the 2026 midterms dismissed the case Tuesday, citing a lack of authority on the matter.

The ruling stems from one of two separate lawsuits seeking to redraw the battleground state's existing maps. Plaintiffs in both cases argue the state's current maps are unconstitutional. Republicans currently hold six of the state's eight congressional seats.

One lawsuit, filed last summer by a bipartisan coalition of business leaders called the Wisconsin Business Leaders

for Democracy, argues that Wisconsin's congressional maps are unconstitutional because they are an anti-competitive gerrymander and violate the state Constitution's guarantees of equal protection to all citizens, the promise to maintain a free government and the right to vote. The second lawsuit was filed in July by a handful of Wisconsin voters and alleges the state's existing maps violate the state Constitution.

Both were filed against the Wisconsin Elections Commission and placed before two three-judge panels, marking the first time that process has been used under a 2011 law passed by Republicans.

On the second lawsuit, the three-judge panel — consisting of Circuit court judges Julie Genovese, of Dane County, Mark Sanders, of Milwaukee County, and Emily Lonergan, of Outagamie County — eniles in the ruling that, while the state Supreme Court created the panel, "neither the

statute nor the order appointing this Panel provides guidance on the Panel's authority or scope."

"Since (state statute) states those appointed to a panel are to be 'circuit court judges,' we will act as a circuit court and will assume no endowment of additional powers or responsibilities," the panel wrote. "As circuit court judges, we conclude that the Panel possesses no authority to supersede decisions of the Wisconsin Supreme Court."

Lucas Vebber, deputy counsel with the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, said the panel's ruling is the "correct decision, and we will continue working to uphold the rule of law in Wisconsin."

WILL is representing several intervenors in the lawsuit.

Zach Bannon, spokesperson for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said the ruling marks "a significant

win for Republicans and a yet another blow to desperate Democrats who wanted to reshape the electoral landscape."

"By keeping Wisconsin's current district lines in place for 2026, Republicans are in a strong position to build on our momentum to retain and grow our House majority," Bannon said.

The second lawsuit, also before a three-judge panel, is scheduled to go to trial next year.

Any rulings of those panels can be appealed to the state's highest court, which holds a 4-3 liberal majority.

Both lawsuits take aim at the previous court's 2021 order that the state's congressional maps must adhere to a "least-change" requirement, meaning that new boundaries must be drawn with as few changes as possible from the prior set of maps passed by legislative Republicans and signed by then-Republican Gov. Scott Walker in 2011.