

- The **US Senate** is taking up the **SAVE America Act this week**. See **TAKE ACTION #2**, below, including the new chart added at the bottom of this email, showing costs of the documentation that would be required... and **Take Action!**
 - The **Wayne County Commission** is scheduled to vote **March 19th on a Resolution in Support of Local Democracy**. All the League of Women Voters chapters in Wayne County have sent letters to the Commissioners urging support of the Resolution. See **TAKE ACTION #3**, below... and **Take Action!**
 - **NoKingsDetroit** is planning the Detroit NoKings rally **Saturday, March 28th at (corrected time & place) 3:00PM at GRAND CIRCUS PARK NOKINGSDETROIT.ORG**. The League of Women Voters of Detroit has joined as a partner in organizing this event. See **TAKE ACTION #1**, below...and **Take Action!**
-

TAKE ACTION!
March 16, 2026

The following issues highlighted by the LWVDetroit Advocacy Committee are consistent with positions of the LWVUS and/or LWVMI and with interests expressed by the Detroit League in the most recent membership survey. Discussion of each issue begins with "Background Information" on the issue and concludes with a series of practical "Take Action!" suggestions.

TAKE ACTION #1: Support "NO KINGS DAY – March 28th"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is an official national partner for the **No Kings 3 National Day of Mobilization** to be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2026**. Key aspects of the LWVUS position include:

- Opposition to Authoritarianism: The League views "No Kings" as a reflection of the nation's foundation—government by the people, not the rule of one.
- Rule of Law: A central tenet of the League stance is that no person, including the President, is above the law.
- Response to Executive Overreach: The League has specifically cited concerns over executive actions that they claim disregard congressional authority, defy court orders, and threaten the separation of powers.
- Nonpartisan Advocacy: While partnering with progressive organizations for these events, LWVUS emphasizes that its participation is conducted in a nonpartisan manner.
- Nature of Action: The mobilization consists of peaceful, nonviolent protests and rallies across the country.
- League Guidelines: Members participating are encouraged to wear LWV gear and use "good judgment" to ensure signs and chants remain nonpartisan.

TAKE ACTION!

1. **Plan to participate in No Kings Day on Saturday, March 28**: Find a location and time convenient to you at <https://www.nokings.org>

2. **Encourage others to participate in No Kings Day:** Invite family, friends, and neighbors to participate in No Kings Day and plan to attend in a group if you can.

3. **Spread the Word on Social Media:** Use Facebook or other social media platforms to spread information about No Kings Day and to encourage widespread public awareness and engagement.

4. **Write a Letter to the Editor:** Write a Letter to the Editor in a publication you respect stating your strong support - as an LWV member - for No Kings Day as an important, non-partisan, peaceful demonstration and a nationwide opportunity for citizens to take a stand for democracy.

TAKE ACTION #2 : OPPOSE The SAVE America Act (H.R. 7296)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A suite of three similar "SAVE bills" were introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 119th Congress (2025-26)

- Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R.7296) –119th Congress (2025-2026)
- SAVE America Act (H.R.7296) –119th Congress (2025-2026)
- Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act (H.R.7300) –119th Congress (2025-2026)

Each of these bills proposes amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 by requiring that a citizen must present in-person documentary proof of U.S. citizenship (birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers) and a matching a government-issued ID in order to register to vote and must present a government-issued photo ID to cast an in-person vote in a national election. The in-person ID requirement will also impact absentee voting, vote-by-mail, and non-profit group voter registration drives.

Supporters of the SAVE America Act argue incorrectly that large numbers of non-citizens vote in U.S. elections. This position has been proven untrue by Brennan Center for Justice research which substantiates that the number of non-citizens voting in U.S. elections is incredibly small (representing less than 0.04% of all votes cast) and not impactful on election results. (Note: citizenship is already requirement to vote in national elections. Penalties for individuals found to falsely claim U.S. citizenship in order to vote can be severe and include deportation, imprisonment, and fines.)

The SAVE America Act could dis-enfranchise millions of eligible American citizens nationwide. Many eligible citizens do not have the documentary proof of citizenship required by the SAVE America Act and would, therefore, be required to acquire the necessary documents in order to exercise their right to register to vote and to vote. A nation-wide survey by the Brennan Center for Justice found that roughly seven percent of the voting-age citizen population, or 13 million American citizens, do not have ready access to the documents required to prove their citizenship. This group includes primarily women, low-income individuals, the elderly, and minorities. Individuals who changed their name upon getting married are especially likely to lack the relevant documents. The Brennan Center estimates that as many as a third of voting-age women do not have access to a birth certificate with their current legal name.

The SAVE America Act (H.R.7296) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 11, 2026, with a 318-213 vote, and has moved to the Senate. To become law, the SAVE America Act must be passed by both the House and the Senate in identical language and then be signed by the President. If all these requirements are met, the SAVE America Act amendment would become law and would take effect immediately. Senate Majority Leader John Thune has announced that he will introduce the Save America Act on the floor of the Senate during the week of March 16, 2026.

TAKE ACTION!

1. **Call or email your U.S. Senators** identifying yourself as a Michigan voter and a member of the LWVDetroit – and urge your Senators to vote **against** the SAVE America Act ((H.R. 7296) in order to protect the vote of an estimated 13 million U.S. citizens who would be disenfranchised if the SAVE Act becomes law.

Senator Gary Peters

Senator Elissa Slotkin

(202) 224-4822

<https://www.slotkin.senate.gov/contact/contact-senator-slotkin/>

URGENT UPDATE: On March 12, 2026, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) announced that he plans to bring the SAVE America Act (H.R. 7296) to the floor of the Senate during the week of March 16th for debate and a vote. Please do not delay in contacting your Senators.

2. **Talk with your family, friends and neighbors about the SAVE Act.** Ask them if they understand the implications of the SAVE America Act becoming law and explain the effect that this new law would have for an estimated 13 million U.S. citizens – primarily older citizens, women, low income, and minority groups who may not have or be able to afford the required documents to provide documentary proof their citizenship.

3. **Send a Letter to the Editor:** Write and send a Letter to the Editor in a publication you respect stating your opposition - as an LWV member – to the SAVE America Act, perhaps choosing some “talking points” from the Background Information and stating the urgency as this issue is likely to be brought to the Senate floor for discussion and a vote within the next week. If the SAVE America Act is passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by President Trump, the new law will take effect immediately and will govern the 2026 midterm elections

TAKE ACTION #3: URGE YOUR WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER TO VOTE “YES” TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 19, the Wayne County Commission will vote on a Resolution in Support of Local Democracy. The Resolution opposes two related efforts in Michigan to amend the State Constitution to require that voters provide documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) to register to vote and a photo ID to cast a ballot in a Michigan election. The two efforts in Michigan promoting the addition of documentary proof of citizenship are (1) House Joint Resolution B (HJR B) in the State Legislature and (2) a statewide petition campaign organized by Americans for Citizen Voting (ACV), requesting that the issue be put on the Michigan ballot for a vote in November. In March ACV submitted 750,000 signatures to the Michigan Department of State; if enough valid signatures are found, the initiative will be on the November 2026 ballot. Both the proposed amendment to the Michigan Constitution (HJR B) and the ACV-sponsored petition would require that eligible voters provide documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) in the form of a U.S. birth certificate, passport, or naturalization documents. These new requirements, if passed, would impose onerous barriers for eligible voters who do not have these documents nor the resources to get them and would disproportionately affect seniors, women, low-income voters, and minorities. In short, these initiatives would prevent eligible American citizens from voting.

TAKE ACTION!

Time Range For Action: March 16 - March 19, 2026

- Join members of the Wayne County Leagues of Women Voters and attend the March 19th meeting of the Wayne County Commissioner in person or by Zoom.
- Prior to March 19, email you county commissioners, asking them to vote YES for the Resolution in Support of Local Democracy.
- Prior to March 19, email comments to the Commission Clerk pfordham@waynecountymi.gov. Comments sent to this email will be read into the public record by the clerk.
- Share information about DPOC legislation and ask friends and neighbors to attend the March 19th meeting of the WCC.
- Share the Demos Fact Sheet on the cost of documentation of citizenship

The committee meets at 10:00 AM in the 7th Floor Meeting Room of the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, Detroit.

You can join the meeting by visiting <https://waynecounty.zoom.us/my/waynecountycommission>

Find Your Commissioner

<https://www.waynecountymi.gov/Government/Elected-Officials/Commission>

DEMOS Fact Sheet: Government documents proving U.S. Citizenship, their costs, and processing times.

used with permission from Demos; from the Demos report; link to full report:

<https://www.demos.org/research/costs-implementing-documentary-proof-citizenship-bills>



Government documents proving U.S. citizenship and their costs and processing times

As of September, 2025

U.S. citizenship document	Type of U.S. citizen	Fees	Processing time
Michigan Birth Certificate ¹⁷	U.S.-born	In-person or mail: \$34 (Michigan Vital Records Department) Online: \$48 standard delivery; \$84 expedited delivery (County-specific costs vary.)	In-person: As fast as same day (appointment may be required) Mail: 4-5 weeks Online: 21-45 business days, standard delivery; 1-5 business days, expedited delivery
Out-of-State Birth Certificate	U.S.-born	Varies	Varies
Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) ¹⁸	Born abroad to U.S.-citizen parents	\$50	4-8 weeks 14-16 weeks if original CRBA issued before Nov. 1, 1990
U.S. Passport ¹⁹	Any U.S. citizen	\$165 (application + acceptance fee for age 16 or older; additional \$60 for expedited service)	4-6 weeks (standard delivery) 2-3 weeks (expedited service)
Replacement Certificate of Naturalization ²⁰	Naturalized U.S. Citizen	\$505 online \$555 paper	5-1/2 or more months
Certificate of Citizenship ²¹	Born abroad to U.S. citizen or derived U.S. citizen (granted to minors with a naturalized U.S. citizen parent)	\$1335 online \$1385 paper	3-6 months



The high costs and extended processing times associated with obtaining documentary proof of citizenship could prevent voting-eligible citizens throughout Michigan from registering to vote in the next election cycle. And the lengthy waiting periods are especially consequential, given that Michigan's voter registration deadline is 15 days before an election.

Hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents living in poverty, many of whom reside in rural counties, would face even more serious burdens based on their lower incomes and reduced access to governmental resources.



The Detroit
League
serves the
geographic

areas of the cities of
Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park

Membership in the Detroit League is welcome from from people in these cities...and everywhere!

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters -- LWV -- is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. The League helps to empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy and education. The League neither endorses nor opposes candidates or political parties. Membership is open to all.

***Join the League of Women Voters
on-line at the
LWV MEMBERSHIP LINK:
<https://portal.lwv.org/>***

League of Women Voters of Detroit | P.O. Box 2503 | Detroit, MI 48202 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!