



The Office of Secretary of State

Brad Raffensperger
SECRETARY OF STATE

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

2/3/2025

Dear Secretary Noem,

Congratulations on your appointment as the 8th Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Your leadership as Governor of South Dakota and your long-standing commitment to public service has demonstrated your dedication to the security and well-being of our Nation. As the primary federal official charged with strengthening our border security and enforcing immigration laws, I understand the tremendous task ahead and support your efforts to improve the integrity of our immigration and enforcement capacities.

As you assume this critical role, we write you to encourage prioritization of improvements to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to better assist states in verifying citizenship for the purposes of voter registration and election integrity. The current framework, while valuable to state efforts to improve election integrity, presents challenges for state election officials. These challenges include data access limitations, financial shortcomings, and outdated records that present usability issues. Enhancing the SAVE database would provide a better tool to assist states in confirming citizenship status of voter registration applicants.

Ways to improve the SAVE system include:

- **Allow users to search for individuals in SAVE using dates of birth, social security numbers, driver's license numbers, and other types of personal identifying information that are obtained during the voter registration application process.**
 - To search using SAVE currently, users must have the Alien Registration Number (A-Number) or another DHS receipt number, to find citizenship status for an individual. State election offices have many other points of personal identifying information (PII) that are obtained during the normal voter registration application process, such as dates of birth, social security numbers, driver's license numbers. DHS should allow those types PII to be used to search citizenship status rather than requiring A-Numbers or DHS receipt numbers, which are often difficult to obtain.
- **Ensure that the database is updated frequently so SAVE does not lag in updating newly naturalized citizens.**

- **Allow states to use the SAVE database for free to conduct citizenship verification.**
 - States must pay inordinate fees to access SAVE. State election offices should be able to use the system at no cost.
- **Provide better guidance on how and when state election offices can use the SAVE system so all states can ensure that only citizens vote in our elections.**
 - Courts have blocked some state attempts to use SAVE due to conflicting guidance on implementation.

These improvements would remove some of the current burdens states face in using SAVE as a tool for citizenship verification. Having already completed two citizenship audits, and fighting allies of Stacey Abrams not once, but twice, to protect our citizenship verification process, today I ask for your commitment to improve the usability, availability, and reliability of the SAVE program. As the Chief Election Officer for the State of Georgia, I appreciate your support in our efforts to improve election integrity and ensure that only lawful U.S. citizens cast ballots in our elections. I believe that by enhancing the SAVE program, DHS can better support state election officials in their duty to maintain accurate voter rolls while protecting the rights of all eligible citizens. Modernizing the system to improve accessibility, reduce costs, and ensure timely updates—particularly for naturalized citizens—would be a significant step toward strengthening both election security and public confidence in our electoral processes.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to working with you to implement these necessary improvements. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to safeguarding our Nation's border security, resilience, and election integrity.

Sincerely,


Brad Raffensperger

Georgia Secretary of State