

Opinion: The Save America Act would rig our elections

The bill would prevent millions of eligible Americans from voting - all to pave the way for authoritarianism and bigotry

By Jordan Liz, OtherWords Columnist

The Senate is debating the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act.

Voting rights organizations, civil rights groups, and others warn that the bill would cause unprecedented disruptions in voting, potentially disenfranchising tens of millions of eligible voters. But President Trump insists that it's "one of the most IMPORTANT & CONSEQUENTIAL pieces of legislation in the history of Congress, and America itself." He contends it is necessary to stop "cheating" in our elections.

Yet voter fraud is exceptionally rare. As the Brennan Center for Justice concludes, "it simply could not and does not happen" at anywhere near the rate "required to 'rig' an election."

The true purpose of the SAVE America Act is not to make elections safer. It is to exploit people's fears about marginalized groups — in this case, immigrants and transgender people — to seize more power.

Importantly, in addition to mandating burdensome Voter ID and proof of citizenship requirements that many eligible voters will be unable to meet, the SAVE America Act also bans transgender athletes from competing in women's sports and gender-affirming care for trans youth. If the purpose were to improve election security, these provisions would be out of place.

The Trump administration, however, knows it lacks any evidence to back-up their phony claims. So instead of facts, they spread lies about immigrants and trans people to change how voters understand the stakes of upcoming elections.

Instead of a democratic contest between different candidates offering distinct visions for the country, Trump wants people to genuinely believe that "very bad things" will happen if the Democrats win the mid-terms. He is hoping that fear will motivate Republicans to pass the SAVE America Act, while distracting people from the real dangers of the law itself.

The reality is that "very bad things" will happen if the SAVE America Act is passed.

For one thing, it would severely restrict mail-in voting, which could especially impact older, disabled, and rural voters, plus millions more in states that have conducted elections by mail for years. Protecting vote-by-mail shouldn't be a partisan issue — even President Trump himself voted by mail this year.

For another, the vast majority of Americans would need to present a passport or birth certificate to show



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proof of citizenship — a driver's license or state ID would often be insufficient. However, more than 140 million U.S. citizens lack a passport, and as many as 69 million married women don't have a birth certificate that matches their legal name.

Beyond those barriers, determining proof of citizenship is highly vulnerable to abuse. If validating those documents is left entirely to election officials — or worse, the Department of Homeland Security — then it can be used to further disenfranchise voters.

We've already seen similar abuses by ICE.

For instance, in December 2025, Dulce Consuelo Diaz Morales, a U.S.-born citizen, was detained by ICE on suspicion of being an undocumented immigrant. Her family and attorneys submitted proof of her citizenship status, including her birth certificate and immunization records.

Yet a DHS official insisted that the documents were not valid. Diaz Morales remained in ICE custody for 25 days before being released. Her rights were denied because DHS judged that her proof of citizenship wasn't proof enough.

This should worry all of us.

In February 2026, then-Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem claimed she had the authority to identify "vulnerabilities" in the election system and implement "mitigation measures" to ensure elections "run correctly." She remarked that DHS will ensure "that we have the right people voting, electing the right leaders to lead this country through the days that we have."

The SAVE America Act is not about preventing election fraud. It is about paving the way for Trump to abuse his legal powers to rig the election in his favor. He is scapegoating immigrants and transgender people to further his authoritarian goals.

We cannot allow this to happen. To save America, we must ensure that the SAVE America Act never passes.

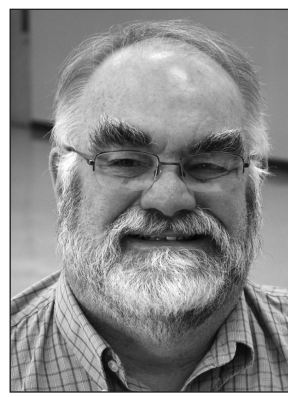
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Editorial Page Opinion Column: The liberator

by Perry Lundon, Devils Lake, ND

It has been fascinating to see the current president as the liberator, often by force, because he plays the part of a bully in the fantasyland of his mind, of Venezuela, and later of Iran. All the while, taking away freedoms and eliminating civil liberties in the country he governs. This dichotomy is a fascinating view of how our country's president sees the world.

It has become very clear that the current president views the world from a transactional viewpoint. The military action in Venezuela resulted in a declaration that he, not the U.S., now controls the substantial oil reserves of Venezuela. There was a miscalculation because Venezuelian oil is a heavy crude that is less marketable worldwide. Iran has higher-quality crude oil, but everything is more complex and difficult in a country of 90+ million people that has long



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existed. That will not stop the arguably the most corrupt president in the history of the country, and we have experienced some very corrupt presidents, from looking for a way to make money for himself and his family from both military actions.

The U.S. has a less-than-stellar history of regime change whenever some military misadventure comes our way throughout the world. Often, our involvement has not quickly improved the lives of most people in the nation; real improvement can take years or decades, yet we decided that a change in

leadership was required. We usually intervene with great fanfare and gravitas, and state how much better the country's people will be, but once the dust settles and media attention wanes, very little comes from our intervention, and the country is left to struggle to govern itself. Unless, of course, there is something the U.S.

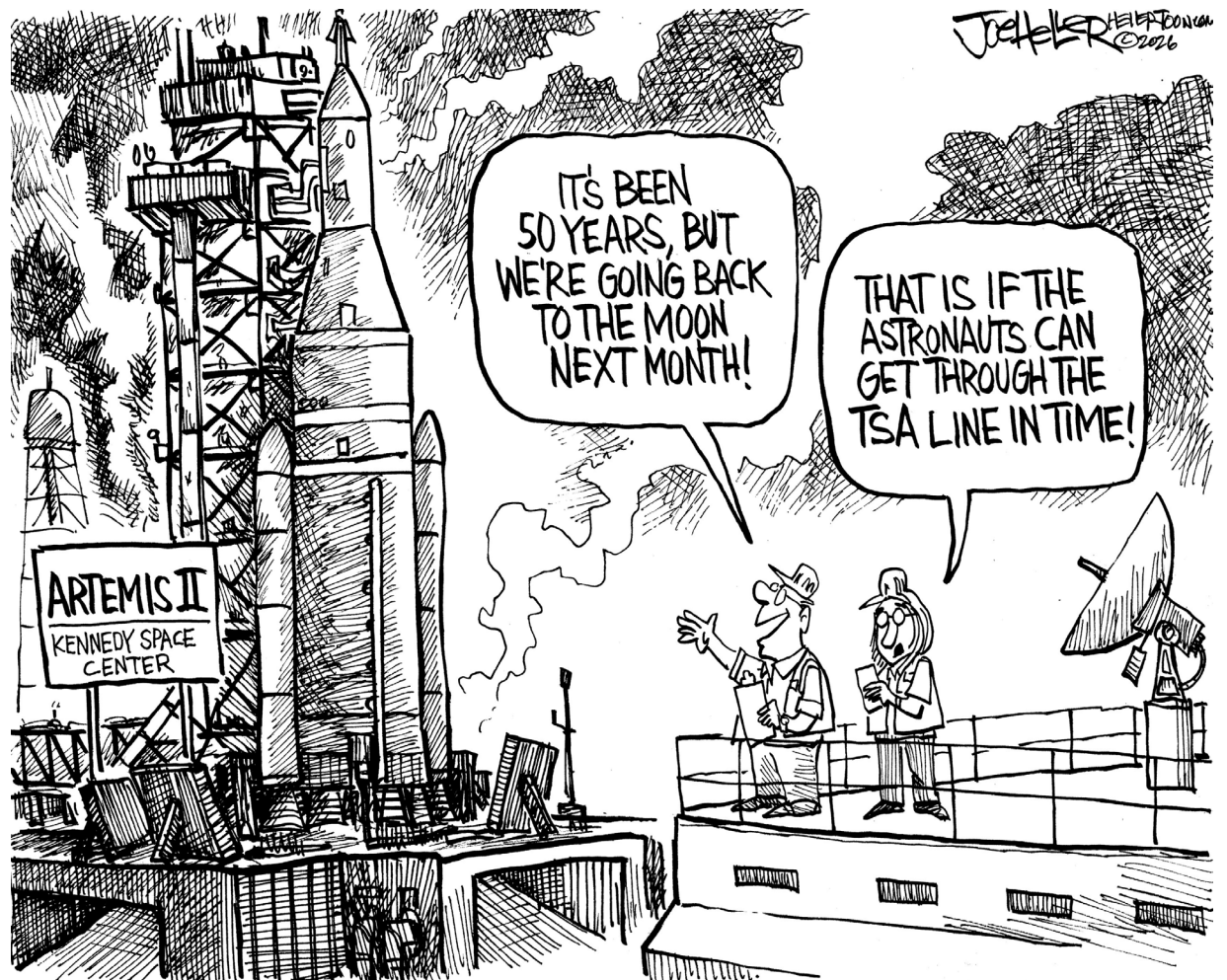
can gain from the country, such as oil, technology, or rare earth metals. Whenever I discuss this subject, I always remember a movie I saw 10-20 years ago in which a corporate representative in the Middle East stated that corporations do not want peace; they make much more money during times of international chaos and conflict.

We live in perhaps the most bizarre times the country has ever seen. The current president would like to take away the vote for millions of Americans (The SAVE America ACT is a legislative piece of garbage designed to prevent

millions from voting, particularly women). We will witness multiple voter suppression efforts in earnest over the next several months. He might even scheme to eliminate the 2026 mid-term election. He does not believe in freedom of speech and would like to control all aspects of the news media so that only what he wants is communicated to the public. He is now whining profusely about the media coverage on the Iran war not being what he wants and revoking licenses of television networks, something unconstitutional, that doesn't communicate what he wants the public to hear. He illegally imposed tariffs at random, without rhyme or reason, representing the greatest increase in sales taxation ever. Don't be fooled when refund checks start coming, and the current president claims he is being generous, that will be a bald-faced lie.

He has unconstitu-

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