

Justin S. Greene
Commissioner, District 1

Lisa Cacari Stone
Commissioner, District 2

Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner, District 3



Adam Fulton Johnson
Commissioner, District 4

Hank Hughes
Commissioner, District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer
County Manager

August 25, 2026

The Honorable Senator Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Ben Ray Luján
United States Senate
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressman Gabe Vasquez
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the New Mexico Federal Delegation's Opposition to the SAVE America Act

The Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (Board) commends you for your continued opposition to the SAVE America Act. The Board appreciates the New Mexico federal delegation's leadership in protecting access to the ballot and standing up for the local election officials who work every day to administer safe, secure, and accessible elections.

Santa Fe County has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen and protect local election administration under the leadership of County Clerk Katharine E. Clark. As Vice Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Elections Subcommittee, she has advocated on behalf of New Mexico for sustained investment in election-security infrastructure and the cybersecurity partnerships, threat intelligence, technical assistance, and security services relied upon by local election officials.

The Board fully supports the newly adopted NACo policies that reflect the practical needs of counties that administer elections. The NACo policies oppose impractical federal mandates imposed without adequate funding, technology, operational flexibility, county consultation, or realistic implementation timelines; oppose criminal penalties and personal liability for election officials making good-faith administrative errors; and support federal investment in the recruitment, training, retention, and protection of the election workforce, as well as continued election-security assistance and funding beyond the limited Help America Vote Act grant structure.

As a county responsible for administering elections, Santa Fe County understands firsthand the importance of ensuring that election policies are practical, adequately funded, and developed in consultation with the local

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officials who must implement them. The Board opposes the SAVE America Act because it would impose significant new requirements on local election administration, including documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration, additional verification and record-reconciliation responsibilities, new training and voter-education requirements, and increased exposure to criminal penalties for election officials. These requirements would create substantial operational burdens for counties while potentially creating barriers for eligible voters who do not have immediate access to qualifying documentation.

These concerns are shared by county officials across the country (see enclosed Fact Sheet). The NACo staunchly and publicly opposes the legislation's immediate and unfunded mandates and has called for federal election policies that include dedicated funding, realistic implementation timelines, available technology, and meaningful consultation with counties. NACo estimates that implementing the legislation could cost approximately \$510 million per election cycle, or roughly 11.3 times the current annual level of federal Help America Vote Act election-security funding. Santa Fe County stands with counties across the nation and with NACo in opposing these unfunded and impractical mandates.

The Board is also concerned about the continued availability of federal election-security assistance and the reliability of ballot-mail service. Counties rely on federal cybersecurity partnerships and technical assistance to protect election infrastructure from increasingly sophisticated threats. Congress should strengthen these partnerships and provide sustained funding rather than reduce election-security assistance while imposing significant new responsibilities on local election offices.

Counties need reliable acceptance scans, postmarks, chain-of-custody records, and ballot-tracking information from the U.S. Postal Service. The Board is concerned that proposed USPS ballot-mail requirements could create new federal databases containing voter and ballot-participation information without addressing existing problems such as missing scans, delayed or misrouted ballots, and unreliable tracking.

These concerns are no longer theoretical. On August 24, 2026, the Supreme Court, in *Trump v. California*, stayed a federal district court injunction that had blocked a March 2026 executive order imposing citizenship-verification and USPS ballot-mail restrictions in 23 states and the District of Columbia. The Court's unsigned majority opinion rested on procedural grounds — it held that the states had not yet been injured because the order's provisions had not yet been implemented — and did not decide whether the executive order is lawful. The ruling nonetheless clears the way for federal agencies to move forward, for the 2026 midterm elections, with measures that closely track several of the SAVE America Act's most concerning provisions, including citizenship-list creation, prioritized prosecution of election officials, and new USPS ballot-tracking requirements. A separate order continues, for now, to block the Postal Service from implementing the ballot-mail provision nationwide. Three justices dissented, warning that the ruling allows the government to “game the system” by timing when it finalizes such rules.

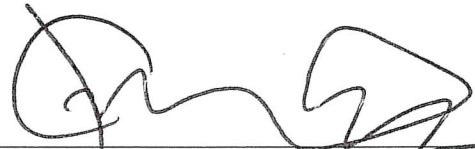
The Board views this development as further evidence that election administration changes of this magnitude — whether pursued through legislation like the SAVE America Act or through unilateral executive action — should not proceed without the funding, implementation time, and county consultation that Santa Fe County and NACo have consistently requested.

The Board respectfully asks the New Mexico federal delegation to continue opposing the SAVE America Act and substantially similar provisions, regardless of the legislative vehicle in which they may appear or whether they are pursued through executive action. The Board also encourages continual advocacy for federal election policies that strengthen election security, support election workers, protect eligible voters, and provide counties with the resources and time necessary to implement any new federal requirements responsibly.

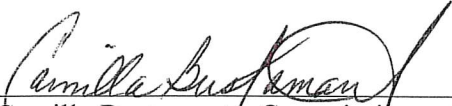
Sincerely,



Lisa Cacari Stone, Commissioner, District 2
Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners
cacaristone@santafecountynm.gov



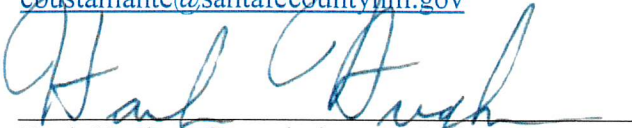
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