



## Court Blocks Key Provisions of Executive Order 14,248 on Voter Registration

In a significant legal development on April 24, 2025, a U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. issued a ruling that temporarily blocks parts of Executive Order 14,248, which sought to modify federal voter registration processes. The court's decision primarily affects two key provisions of the Executive Order, preventing the federal government from requiring documentary proof of citizenship during voter registration and from withholding voter registration forms in certain federal agencies.

The ruling comes after several plaintiffs, including civil rights groups and the Democratic National Committee (DNC), filed lawsuits challenging the Executive Order issued by President Trump. The Executive Order, signed in 2024, aimed to enhance the security and integrity of voter registration by making proof of U.S. citizenship a requirement for federal voter registration forms and adjusting how federal agencies distribute voter registration materials.

### What the Court Blocked:

The court granted a preliminary injunction to temporarily halt:

1. **Section 2(a):** This provision, which would have mandated documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration applicants, is now suspended. The injunction means that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) cannot implement this requirement for the time being. However, the ruling does not prevent the EAC from requiring proof of citizenship independently. It specifically blocks the President's mandate for the EAC to implement such measures, leaving the EAC with the option to pursue these steps on its own, separate from the President's Executive Order.
2. **Section 2(d):** Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration, are barred from refusing to provide voter registration forms to applicants based on an inability to assess citizenship status.

The court's decision effectively prevents these changes to the federal voter registration process from going forward, citing concerns over the potential harm these provisions could cause to voters.

### What the Court Did Not Block:

The court, however, declined to issue an injunction on three other provisions of the Executive Order, leaving them intact for the moment. Sections 2(b), 7(a), and 7(b) will

remain in effect, meaning other measures within the Executive Order related to voter registration will proceed as planned.

### **Context Behind the Challenge:**

The challenged Executive Order was introduced as part of the Trump administration's broader initiative to ensure greater accuracy and security in the electoral system. The President's order aimed to address concerns about voter fraud by strengthening identification requirements and encouraging more stringent controls on voter registration processes. Specifically, Section 2(a) sought to require documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, a provision that was seen as a direct response to allegations of non-citizen voting.

However, critics argue that such changes would disproportionately affect marginalized communities, particularly immigrants and communities of color, who may face challenges in obtaining or presenting the required proof of citizenship. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the League of Women Voters, along with several other advocacy groups, filed lawsuits claiming that these provisions would disenfranchise voters and impose undue burdens on those seeking to exercise their right to vote.

### **Potential Impact:**

The court's ruling has immediate implications for voter registration practices across the United States. The injunctions prevent the implementation of stricter citizenship verification procedures that could have made it more difficult for some citizens to register to vote. By blocking Section 2(d), the ruling also ensures that federal agencies continue to provide voter registration forms to individuals seeking federal services, regardless of their citizenship verification.

While the ruling is temporary, it highlights ongoing tensions between efforts to safeguard election integrity and concerns about voter access. As the case moves forward, the full scope of the Executive Order's impact will likely continue to be debated in both the courts and the public sphere.

Legal experts expect that the case may continue to shape the national conversation about voter rights, as well as the balance between election security and broad, inclusive access to voting.

### **Next Steps:**

The court's injunction is in place for the time being, but the legal challenges are far from over. As the litigation progresses, the fate of the remaining provisions of Executive Order 14,248 will depend on future rulings, potentially reaching the Supreme Court. For now, advocates for voting rights are celebrating a temporary win, while those in favor of the original executive order may turn their attention to appealing the decision.

