

St. Louis County, Missouri Record Request Inbox x

Moser, Ryan <RMoser@stlouiscountymo.gov>
to research@truethevote.org, me ▾

Hello,

This message is in response to a record request one of our Departments received over the weekend.

The request was looking for any information on a Federal Executive Order issued earlier this year. After a search, no records relating to that Federal Executive Order exist in our records.

Please let me know if we can help in any other way.

Take care,

Ryan Moser
Administrative Assistant

O: 314.615.1851
E: moser@stlouiscountymo.gov
W: stlouiscountymovotes.gov



From: [Bahr, Kurt](#)
To: [Palermo, Gregg A](#)
Subject: Re: Spectrum News Question
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:31:23 PM

Voting by mail began in the United States during the civil war so that soldiers could vote while fighting to preserve the Union. Since then, it has been a time honor tradition to ensure that our military members overseas as well as any citizens living abroad whether their missionaries, students or diplomats have their right to vote. As a veteran who cast his ballot while being station overseas, I do not support anything that would disenfranchise our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. As a constitutional conservative republican, I am also concerned about any politician from DC stating that states are subservient to the federal government. The Constitution limits the power of the federal government and in terms of elections it only gives Congress the ability to ensure federal elections occur. It is for the states and the people thereof who elect their state legislatures to determine how those elections are conducted. I support the President's desire to have good, honest elections, but it cannot be done on the backs of our service members, missionaries and students living abroad.

On Aug 18, 2025 9:52 AM, "Palermo, Gregg A" <gregg.palermo@charter.com> wrote:

EXTERNAL EMAIL

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Kurt,

Looking for reaction to President Trump's call this morning to lead a movement to get rid of mail-in ballots, and the promise of an executive order.

When it comes to elections, what's your reaction to the President's statement that states are "merely an "agent" for the Federal Government in counting and tabulating the votes. They must do what the Federal Government, as represented by the President of the United Staes, tells them, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY, to do."?

--

Gregg Palermo | Digital Journalist, Spectrum News St. Louis

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<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/mo/st-louis>
<https://twitter.com/GreggPalermo>

<https://www.facebook.com/SpectrumNewsSTL/>

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From: [Bahr, Kurt](#)
To: [Abert, Amy](#); [Benefield, Chris](#); [Davis, Ron](#); [Dean, Nina](#); [Denton, Melissa](#); [Ellison, Dianne](#); [Lovasco, Eva](#); [Love, Kaleab](#); [Parkinson, Mark](#); [Reed, Angela](#); [Spak, Daniel](#); [Woods-Caragan, Leslie](#)
Cc: [Bahr, Kurt](#); [Harris, Scarlet](#)
Subject: training for week of March 31 2025
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:01:18 PM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Last week the President signed an executive order (EO) dealing with elections. The executive order and shorter facts sheet from the White house are at the bottom of this email. The SOS response (nothing but praise) is in the middle. You may read these documents for yourself. This weeks training is a one hour zoom call from last week that talks about the legality and likely legal challenges to this EO. Vote yes when you have watched the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcJcqnQRyFI>

From: LaStrada, Nick <Nick.LaStrada@sos.mo.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:55 PM
To: Bahr, Kurt <KBahr@sccmo.org>; Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: RE: Election Executive Order

EXTERNAL EMAIL

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Kurt,

The Secretary of State's Office has prepared an official response regarding President Trump's executive order titled
"Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections."

Please find the press release below:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageId=10504>

If you have any additional questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Nick La Strada | Director of Election Integrity
Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins
600 West Main Street | Jefferson City, MO 65102
Direct: (573) 522-1603 | 1-800-669-8683

[ElectionsLogo-2](#)



From: Bahr, Kurt <KBahr@sccmo.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4:01 PM
To: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>; LaStrada, Nick <Nick.LaStrada@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Election Executive Order

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

The president issued an executive order today requiring the federal voter registration form to have a documented proof of citizenship. The attachment has the order and the facts sheet. Below are links to them as well. Does the SOS office have a response on how it will affect local election authorities?

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/03/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-protects-the-integrity-of-american-elections/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/>



Kurt Bahr, CERA | Director of Elections
St. Charles County Election Authority
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“Confidence in the integrity of our electoral processes is essential to the functioning of our participatory democracy.” – Justice Kavanaugh

From: [Bahr, Kurt](#)
To: [Abert, Amy](#); [Benefield, Chris](#); [Davis, Ron](#); [Dean, Nina](#); [Denton, Melissa](#); [Ellison, Dianne](#); [Lovasco, Eva](#); [Love, Kaleab](#); [Parkinson, Mark](#); [Reed, Angela](#); [Spak, Daniel](#); [Woods-Caragan, Leslie](#)
Cc: [Bahr, Kurt](#)
Subject: Training of Week of April 28
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 9:43:25 AM

This week's training is two AP articles about the recent executive order concerning documented proof of citizenship for voter registration. I put them in the email below.

A little-known federal agency is at the center of Trump's executive order to overhaul US elections

ATLANTA (AP) — Florida's "hanging chads" ballot controversy riveted the nation during the [2000 presidential contest](#) and later prompted Congress to create an independent commission to help states update their voting equipment.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has operated in relative anonymity since, but is now central to President [Donald Trump's executive order](#) seeking to overhaul elections. One of the commission's boards will meet Thursday in North Carolina, the first commission-related meeting since the [directives](#) were announced.

[Among other things](#), Trump directed the agency to update the national voter registration form to add a proof of citizenship requirement. But whether the president can order an independent agency to act and whether the commission has the authority to do what Trump wants will [likely be settled in court](#).

Why was the commission created?

Congress approved the Help America Vote Act in 2002 to help states replace outdated voting systems and improve the voting experience.

It passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support and was signed into law by then-President [George W. Bush](#), a Republican who won the 2000 presidential contest over Democrat [Al Gore](#) in a disputed election that went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The culprit was a method of voting at the time in Florida that relied on so-called [punch-card ballots](#), which required voters to mark their choices using a hand-held stylus. But thousands of voters didn't punch their ballot choices completely, leaving it to local election workers — [some using magnifying glasses](#) — to divine their intent. The resulting chaos in the pivotal swing state and intense national attention turned "hanging" and "pregnant" chads into household terms.

The Supreme Court ultimately [stopped the counting](#), leaving Bush with a 537-vote victory margin that gave him the Electoral Votes he needed to claim the presidency.

The 2002 law was designed to modernize the voting process. Under it, the Election Assistance Commission was given a number of mandates: distribute \$2.8 billion in federal money for new voting equipment; create voluntary guidelines for voting systems and establish a federal testing and certification program for them; oversee the national voter registration form; and gather data about federal elections.

The four commissioners who lead the agency are nominated by the president based on

recommendations from the majority and minority leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, then confirmed by the Senate. No political party can be represented by more than two commissioners.

At various points, the agency has faced budget cuts, staffing shortages and gridlock caused by vacancies in the commissioner positions. But a consistent budget and a quorum among the commissioners since 2019 has led to increased stability, with election officials praising its efforts in recent years.

Trump wants to put his own stamp on elections

Trump has long been skeptical of how elections are run, making [false claims](#) that the 2020 election was “rigged” against him. Multiple reviews of that election confirmed [his loss to Democrat Joe Biden](#).

He has continued to criticize voting processes since his win last November, including in his March 25 [executive order](#), which calls for major changes that include a proof-of-citizenship requirement when people register to vote for federal elections.

While Trump directed several federal agencies to act, two of the order’s major provisions were directed at the Election Assistance Commission.

It was instructed to “take appropriate action” within 30 days to require documentary proof of citizenship on the national voter registration form. The order outlines acceptable documents as a U.S. passport, a [REAL-ID](#) compliant driver’s license or official military ID that “indicates the applicant is a citizen,” or a government-issued photo ID accompanied by proof of citizenship.

It also directed the commission to “take all appropriate action to cease” federal money for any state that fails to use the form that includes the proof-of-citizenship requirement, though a handful of states are exempt under federal law. Trump also wants the commission to revise standards for voting systems.

Election experts have said the changes are unrealistic given the process outlined in federal law, which includes reviews by advisory groups and a period for public comment. The last major update to the voluntary guidelines for voting systems took years and was approved by the commission in 2021.

“It’s practically impossible to demand that commissioners of the EAC create wholly new voting system guidelines based on highly questionable criteria within 180 days,” said David Becker, a former Justice Department lawyer who leads the Center for Election Innovation & Research. “It raises the question as to whether this was designed to create chaos since it cannot be practically and competently completed.”

Lawsuits say the commission is independent and not subject to Trump’s orders

Trump’s executive order has prompted [lawsuits](#) by voting rights groups, the Democratic Party and Democratic elected officials in 21 states. They say the president is exceeding his authority under the Constitution.

A lawsuit by [19 Democratic attorneys general](#) argues that the commission was created by Congress to operate independently to protect elections and is required to make decisions “under standards of bipartisanship” and in collaboration with the states.

“The Elections EO seeks to eradicate all those safeguards — aiming to force the Commission to rubberstamp the President’s policy preferences on, among other things, voter registration and voting systems,” lawyers for the states wrote.

Justin Levitt, an expert in constitutional law who served previously as deputy assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s civil rights division, said Congress established the Election Assistance Commission as independent of the president and did not give it any enforcement authority.

“It’s not like most of the other agencies in the federal government, and that makes a big difference in the amount that it can do or will do to further Trump’s agenda,” Levitt said.

“Legally, that (order) has as much impact as if I told the EAC what to do or you told the EAC what to do.”

What happens next?

On Thursday, the commission’s Standards Board begins its annual meeting in North Carolina, where it will hear from election officials from across the country, many of whom are likely to have questions about the commission’s role under Trump’s order.

Earlier this month, the commission’s executive director sent a letter to state election officials summarizing the proof-of-citizenship requirement outlined in Trump’s order and asking how states would propose to implement it, if required, and what effect that would have on voter registration.

Chairman Donald Palmer said the agency was following the law, which governs the way any proposed change to the federal form can be made.

“That’s the process that we’ve done in the past, and that’s the process we did this time,” Palmer said. “In my mind, this is really to get information from the states.”

He praised the commission’s ability in recent years to find consensus and noted that the litigation would likely settle questions surrounding the executive order.

“We are in the executive branch, but we are an independent agency. And so those answers will – I’m sure those will be resolved,” he said.

Associated Press writer Ali Swenson in New York contributed to this report.

US election officials question agency about Trump’s order overhauling election operations

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — State and local election officials from around the country on Thursday questioned the leaders of a federal agency directed by President [Donald Trump](#) to implement parts of his sweeping election overhaul executive order, with some expressing concerns about the consequences for voters and the people in charge of voting.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, an independent and bipartisan federal agency, is at the center of Trump’s March 25 order that directs the commission to update the national voter

registration form to include a proof-of-citizenship requirement and revise guidelines for voting systems. Trump also wants it to withhold federal money from any state that continues to accept ballots after Election Day even if they are postmarked by then.

Whether the Republican president can order an independent agency to act and whether the commission has the authority to do what Trump wants will [likely be settled in court](#).

A federal judge on Thursday [issued a preliminary injunction](#) blocking the proof-of-citizenship requirement from moving forward while the legal challenges over Trump's executive order play out.

Meanwhile, members of the commission's Standards Board – a bipartisan advisory group of election officials from every state – met in North Carolina for its annual meeting. It was among the first conversations held by those who oversee the nation's voting on the implications of Trump's executive order.

The meeting was an opportunity for election officials to ask the four EAC commissioners about Trump's executive order and share their concerns about its effects on election administration and voting.

"I can see on your faces there's a lot of concern in this room for this process and other aspects of it," Commissioner Thomas Hicks said. "And I would highly encourage you to send comments to us on that."

An election official from Utah raised concern about how Native American communities might be affected under a proof-of-citizenship requirement, while an election official from Florida asked how voting machine companies could be expected to respond when a voting system has yet to be certified to meet the latest guidelines, which were updated in 2021.

"And they're going to what — ramp up production and provide voting equipment for all 50 states and five territories?" asked Paul Lux, elections supervisor in Okaloosa County.

Donald Palmer, chair of the Election Assistance Commission, sought to reassure election officials that the commission would weigh their concerns and encouraged them to continue sharing their thoughts.

"Wherever we end up in this process, my goal is to provide the least disruption to the states, to mitigate any impact on you and your voting systems," Palmer told the group.

The court ruling temporarily blocking the commission from taking steps to implement the proof-of-citizenship requirement came in a consolidated group of lawsuits filed by voting rights groups and Democrats that challenged Trump's authority to order election changes.

"Our Constitution entrusts Congress and the States—not the President—with the authority to regulate federal elections," wrote U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in the opinion.

The judge noted Congress was currently debating legislation on a proof-of-citizenship requirement when registering to vote in federal elections and "no statutory delegation of authority to the Executive Branch permits the President to short-circuit Congress's deliberative process by executive order."

In response to the court ruling, Palmer said the agency would comply and was "committed to serving election officials and voters."

Maine's chief election official, Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, was at Thursday's meeting in North Carolina and welcomed the judge's decision.

“Everyone agrees that only citizens should vote in federal elections,” said Bellows, a Democrat. “And the Trump executive order was an unworkable and unconstitutional attempt to limit voting rights.”

Two separate groups of Democratic state officials have also filed lawsuits, and those cases are pending.

The Constitution says it’s [up to states](#) to determine the “times, places and manner” of how elections are run, while Congress has the power to “make or alter” regulations for presidential and congressional elections. It does not grant the president any authority over how elections are administered.

Congress created the Election Assistance Commission after the 2000 presidential election, which included [a contested outcome in Florida](#), to help states update their voting equipment. Under the 2002 law, the commission was charged with distributing federal money for new voting equipment, creating voluntary guidelines for voting systems, establishing a federal testing and certification program for them, and overseeing the national voter registration form. It also has worked closely with the states to gather an array of data and share ideas on how to run elections more efficiently.

Trump, who continues to [make false claims](#) about the [2020 presidential election](#), instructed the commission to “take appropriate action” within 30 days to require documentary proof of citizenship on the national voter registration form. The order outlines acceptable documents as a U.S. passport, a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or official military ID that “indicates the applicant is a citizen,” or a government-issued photo ID accompanied by proof of citizenship.

Both the process for updating the national voter registration form and making changes to the nation’s voluntary voting system guidelines are outlined in federal law. For the form, that involves getting feedback from state election officials and from the agency’s advisory boards. The process for the voting system guidelines also includes a period for public comment and a hearing.

The requirement has caused widespread concern that it will disenfranchise millions of voters who don’t have a passport or ready access to their birth certificate or other documents that will prove their citizenship. Similar laws at the state level have caused disruptions, including during town elections last month [in New Hampshire](#) and in Kansas, where a since overturned law ended up [blocking the voter registrations](#) of 31,000 people who were citizens and otherwise eligible to vote.

Trump’s order also directed the Election Assistance Commission to “take all appropriate action to cease” federal money for any state that fails to use the form that includes the proof-of-citizenship requirement, though a handful of states are exempt under federal law from using the national form.

Some states would have to halt their practice of counting late-arriving mail ballots that are postmarked by Election Day. If they don’t, Trump’s executive order directs the commission to withhold election-related funding. Oregon and Washington have filed [a separate lawsuit](#) against the executive order, saying it would upend their elections because they rely entirely on mail voting.

From: [Bahr, Kurt](#)
To: [Abert, Amy](#); [Benefield, Chris](#); [Davis, Ron](#); [Dean, Nina](#); [Denton, Melissa](#); [Ellison, Dianne](#); [Lovasco, Eva](#); [Love, Caleb](#); [Parkinson, Mark](#); [Reed, Angela](#); [Spak, Daniel](#); [Woods-Caragan, Leslie](#)
Subject: Training week of 27 May 2025
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 10:52:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

The bill to require documented proof of citizenship did not pass in the MO legislature. It is still a big issue for some. This week's training is a video from two SOSs that have DPOC requirements for their states (AZ & NH). It is an hour long but you can speed up the video by clicking on the settings gear and adjusting playback speed. As always vote yes when completed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5kJwT3oNk>



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