



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Room 510
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2772 (F) 831-454-2411 TTY/TDD: 711
commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov
www.sccwc.org

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Location: County Govt Building, 701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor Redwood Conference Room
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*As a courtesy to those affected, kindly attend the meeting **scent-free** and **smoke-free**.*

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approve *May 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment:
Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
4. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 4.1. Federal Legislation Impacting Voter Registration for Women – Tricia Webber (*County Clerk*)
 - 4.2. CEDAW Board Presentation Debrief
 - 4.3. 2026 Trailblazers Awards Planning
 - 4.4. Recruitment for District Five Vacancies
5. Staff Report
6. Correspondence
7. Emerging Matters
8. Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Thursday October 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you require special assistance to participate, please call (831) 454-2772 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: County Government Building, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor Redwood Conference Room
PRESENT: Amanda Crowder (1st District), Paige Gordon (1st District), Brenda Rogers (2nd District), Suzanne Doty (3rd District), Allison Albert (3rd District), Rita Sanchez (4th District)
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: Karina Moreno (4th District)
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)
GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:03 PM.

Commission welcomed new Commissioner Albert (District 3).

2. Approve February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Sanchez/Rogers

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve March 26, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion/Second: Sanchez/Crowder

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment: None

5. New Business/Action Items:

5.1. Officer Elections

Motion to re-elect Doty and elect Gordon to serve as Commission Co-Chairs

Motion/Second: Rogers/Sanchez

Motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Consider 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve and adopt the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

Motion/Second: Sanchez/Doty

Motion passed unanimously.

5.3. CEDAW Recommendation Updates

Staff reported that the recommendations will be on the June 24th Board agenda and Commissioners are welcome to attend the meeting and offer public comment if they choose. Commissioners will contact their District Supervisors to share a copy of the letter and discuss it before the June 24th meeting.

5.4. Strategic Planning

Commission discussed updates to the Commission's Strategic Action Plan including adding the CEDAW recommendations, immigration enforcement impact, and federal legislation impacting voter registration for women. Staff will update the plan and add the item to the June agenda.

6. Staff Report:

Staff shared additional information about re-registering with the County's new payment system, Payment Works.

7. Emerging Matters:

Doty requested that the Commission considered advocating with the Board of Supervisors to issue a proclamation honoring Women's Equality Day (August 26th) commemorating the certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. The item will be placed on the June agenda, and Doty will contact Supervisor De Serpa's staff to gauge her interest and possible sponsorship of the item, should the Commission approve it.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

Federal Bill H.R. 22/S128, SAVE Act: Impacts on Voter Eligibility and Departmental Administration

June 12, 2025

1

Background

- January 2025 – Identical bills introduced by Congress
 - House of Representatives Bill H.R. 22
 - Senate Bill S128
 - Referred to as the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act
- March 25, 2025 – Executive Order 14248 issued by President Trump
 - Titled “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections”



2

SAVE Act and EO 14248

Major Similarities and Differences

SAVE Act	EO 14248
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to address noncitizen voting • Implements stricter voter registration requirements • Eliminates online and mail in voter registration • Disenfranchisement of specific demographics • Introduces criminal penalties for election officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to enhance election security • Mandates states to adopt stricter voter registration requirements • Authorizes federal review of voter registration lists • Prohibits states from counting mail-in ballots received after Election Day • Penalizes states and withholds funding for noncompliance

3

Impacts on Eligible Voters

- Requires eligible voters to prove their citizenship with registering to vote
- Requires eligible voters to appear in person when updating information
- Eliminates online, mail-in, and DMV voter registration
- Eliminates address updates through the USPS
- Disproportionately affects certain demographics
- Creates an unfunded mandate



4

2024 Voter Registration Trends

45,390 Registrations across Santa Cruz County in 2024

Method used for the registration/update:

DMV - 26,755

Mail - 2,739

Military/Overseas (UOCAVA) - 385

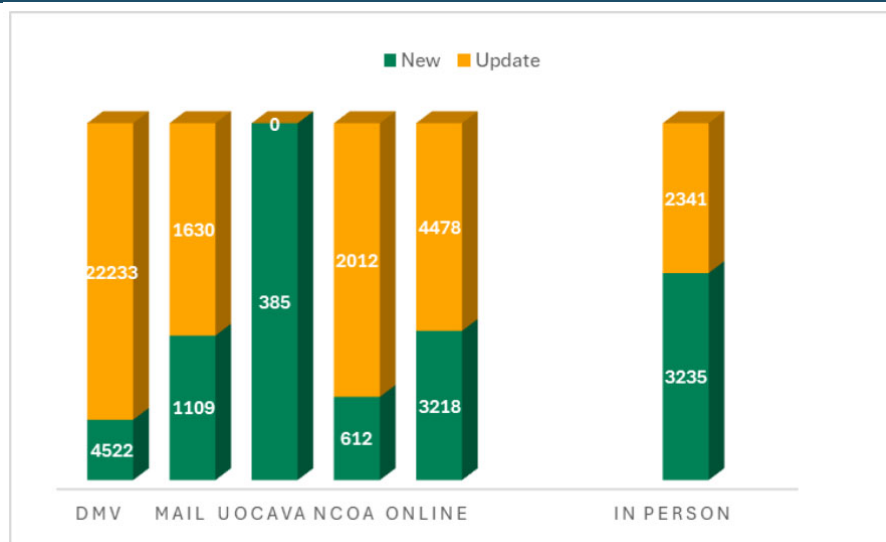
USPS Change of Address (NCOA) - 2,624

Online - 7,696

In Person - 5,576

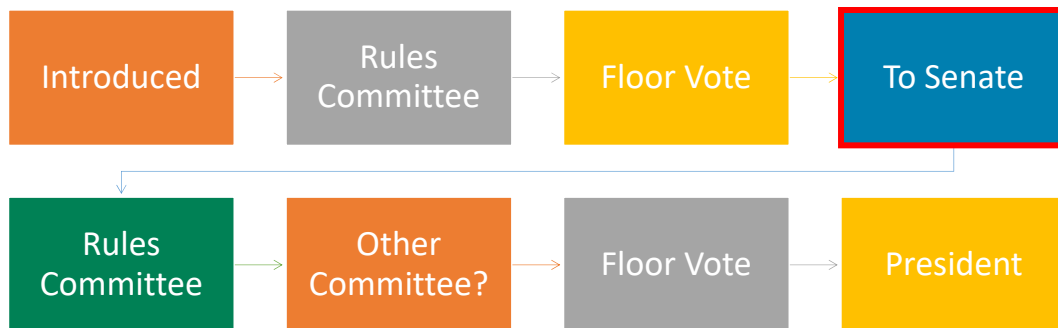
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2024 Voter Registration Trends

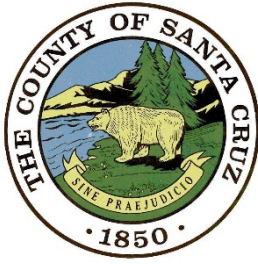


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Tracking the Bill



7



County of Santa Cruz

County Clerk / Elections

701 Ocean Street, Room 310, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone: 831 454-2060 Toll-free: 866-252-5900 Fax: 831-454-2445 TDD: call 711

E-mail: info@votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov

Web sites: www.sccoclerk.santacruzcountyca.gov & www.votescount.santacruzcountyca.gov

Tricia Webber, County Clerk
Rita Sanchez, Assistant County Clerk

[Date]

The Honorable [Representative/Senator Name]

[Office Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Opposition to H.R. 22/S128, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

Dear [Representative/Senator Last Name],

On behalf of the County of Santa Cruz, I write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 22/S128, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.

As the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, I am deeply concerned about the bill's impact on voter accessibility and the administrative burdens it imposes on our elections office, as well as its potential to disenfranchise eligible voters.

The SAVE Act seeks to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 by requiring proof of United States citizenship as each voter registers to vote for federal elections. While the intent of this bill is to ensure that only citizens vote, studies consistently show that noncitizen voting is exceedingly rare and already subject to significant legal penalties. 18 U.S.C. § 1015 clearly states that it is illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections, and those that break the law can face up to five years in prison and/or be deported. Americans already attest to their citizenship status when registering to vote and my office verifies each voter's eligibility using state and federal data. This is the job of election offices, to ensure that voters who are eligible to register can, and that only registered voters participate in elections. Instead of allowing our office to do their sworn duty, this legislation puts the burden on every single American citizen to prove that they can exercise their right to vote.

The SAVE Act creates unnecessary barriers for eligible voters, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations including low-income individuals, the unhoused, military personnel, college students, and people with disabilities.

Specifically, this legislation would:

- Require in-person voter registration with specified documentation, eliminating online and mail-in voter registration options. This change would particularly burden rural

communities, military stationed outside of Santa Cruz County, overseas citizens, people with disabilities, and those with limited access to transportation.

- Disenfranchise eligible voters who may struggle to obtain required documents, including natural disaster victims, incarcerated individuals, and those whose names have changed due to marriage, transition, or other legal reasons.
- Place undue administrative burdens on local election offices, requiring extensive procedural revisions, staff training, and additional personnel to handle document verification.
- Impose criminal penalties on election officials who inadvertently register voters without the required documentation, potentially deterring civic engagement and discouraging individuals from serving as election workers.

The SAVE Act is an unfunded mandate to both elections offices and all voters. Election offices will not receive federal or state funding to implement these new changes or perform outreach to voters in order to educate them on the new process. Voters will have to take time off from work to obtain the necessary documentation and come in person to register to vote, as well as spend funds to get the necessary documentation, drive to and from their home to the elections office at least once every time there is a change to their registration. Military voters stationed outside of their home county, as well as voters who reside overseas would have to physically come to a county elections office, which is a complicated and highly costly task.

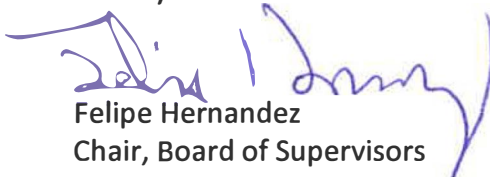
The County of Santa Cruz is committed to ensuring fair, accessible, and secure elections. The SAVE Act threatens to undermine these principles by imposing unnecessary barriers to the democratic process. We urge you to oppose H.R. 22/S.128 and work towards solutions that strengthen election security without disenfranchising eligible voters.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require additional information on the impact of this proposed legislation on our community.

Sincerely,



Tricia Webber
County Clerk



Felipe Hernandez
Chair, Board of Supervisors



Faris Sabbah
Superintendent of Schools



Sheri Thomas
Assessor-Recorder

cc: Members of the 119th U.S. Congress

Married Women Who Changed Their Names

- **Name mismatches between IDs and birth certificates:** The Act would require voters to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship—like a birth certificate that matches their current legal name or a passport. Women who took their spouse’s surname may find their birth certificates don’t match their current ID, and many don’t have easily accessible certified documents proving name changes
 - **Logistical and financial barriers:** To comply, married women may need to: obtain a new passport (costing \$130–\$236) or amend legal documents such as marriage certificates or birth certificates—which involves court orders and fees of \$100–\$400
 - **Disproportionate burden on low-income and rural voters:** Those with limited resources or living far from registration offices face extra challenges—both in travel and bureaucracy
-

Transgender and Non-Cis-Gendered People

- **Inconsistent legal documents:** Many trans individuals don’t have IDs that align across legal name and gender markers. Only ~11% have all IDs updated, and 44% have legally changed names—but only ~18% have updated birth certificates
 - **Restricted passport and gender marker changes:** Due to current federal limitations, many trans people cannot update passports or birth certificates to match their identity. Those who haven't completed the full legal process—or only updated some documents—may lack proper proof at the polls
 - **Discrimination and erasure:** The SAVE Act offers no clear guidance on accepting name-change affidavits or court documents as supplementary proof, leaving trans voters particularly vulnerable
-

Why This Matters

- **Undermining democracy for no real reason:** Non-citizen voting is already illegal and extremely rare.
- **Echoing past injustices:** The SAVE Act mirrors historical restrictions like the 1907 Expatriation Act, which stripped women of citizenship rights—forcing them to jump through bureaucratic hoops to vote [time.com](https://www.time.com).

- **Uneven implementation and confusion:** States could apply the rules inconsistently—some may accept marriage certificates, others not. Such ambiguity will lead to disenfranchisement before any oversight or relief mechanisms are established .

In Summary

Group	Key Impacts
Married women	Name mismatches → need passports or court filings → financial and logistical barriers
Trans/non-cis people	Outdated or inconsistent IDs → can't meet documentation requirements
All low-income / rural people	Travel + cost burdens to comply with in-person and document rules



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Women's Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
LOCATION: **Santa Cruz County Government Building ***
5th Floor Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

***Unless noted otherwise below**

Locations may vary for outreach, town hall meetings, special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations. Changes to the schedule will be listed on the website at www.sccwc.org as soon as information becomes available.

2025 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 16, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
February 20, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
March 20, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
April 17, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
May 15, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
June 12, 2025*	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
August 21, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
September 18, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
October 16, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
November 20, 2025	6:00 – 7:30 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.