

COURT CASE

League of Women Voters v. Trump (March 2025 Elections Executive Order)

The Brennan Center and co-counsel filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of civil rights and voting organizations challenging President Trump’s March 2025 executive order on elections.

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[Voting & Elections](#)

On March 25, 2025, the president issued an executive order titled Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections. The executive order, among other things, directs the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), an independent agency, to amend the federal voter registration form to include a requirement for “documentary proof of United States citizenship.” It also directs the commission to withhold funding from

states that do not include a documentary proof-of-citizenship requirement as set forth in the order or that do not reject mail ballots received after Election Day, even if timely under state law. And it directs the commission to amend the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines to prohibit the use of certain voting systems and rescind all previous certifications of state systems. These directives are

unlawful [\[link-1\]](#), as they violate federal and constitutional law.

On April 1, 2025, the Brennan Center, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of D.C., Asian Americans Advancing Justice, LatinoJustice, and Legal Defense Fund filed a federal lawsuit, *League of Women Voters v. Trump*, challenging the executive order in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against President Trump and the EAC. The suit was filed on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Arizona, League of Women Voters Education Fund, Hispanic Federation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, and OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates.

The lawsuit challenges the executive order's directive that the EAC require documents proving citizenship to register using the federal form as an overreach of presidential power. The plaintiffs allege that the directive is a violation of the

separation of powers doctrine. The president cannot set election laws; only Congress and the states have such authority. The plaintiffs also allege that the order is illegal because the president does not have the authority to mandate the EAC to implement a requirement for eligible American citizens to show a passport or other citizenship document in order to register to vote. This is because the EAC is an independent agency over which the president has no authority, and because such a show-your-papers requirement would violate the National Voter Registration Act.

On April 3, 2025, the district court consolidated the League Plaintiffs' action with two other cases challenging the Executive Order.

On April 7, 2025, the League Plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary injunction, with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Secure Families Initiative, and Arizona Students' Association (plaintiffs in one of the consolidated cases). The League and LULAC Plaintiffs asked that the court stop

the EAC, its commissioners, and its executive director from implementing the Executive Order's directive to amend the federal form to require documentary proof of citizenship.

On April 24, 2025, the federal district court issued an order temporarily blocking the U.S. Election Assistance Commission from implementing the president's mandate to add a requirement to show a passport or similar document proving citizenship when registering to vote via the federal form.

On July 11, 2025, the League Plaintiffs filed jointly with the LULAC Plaintiffs a motion for partial summary judgment. The League Plaintiffs asked the Court to make the preliminary injunction permanent, which would block the EAC from implementing the executive order's mandate to require the showing of a passport or similar document when registering to vote with the federal form.

On October 31, 2025, the federal district court granted summary judgment in favor of the League Plaintiffs, permanently

enjoining the EAC, its Commissioners, and its Executive Director, from taking any action to implement or give effect to the Executive Order's show-your-papers requirement.

Documents

- [Complaint](#) [\[link-2\]](#) (April 1, 2025)
- [Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction](#) [\[link-3\]](#) (April 7, 2025)
- [Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction](#) [\[link-4\]](#) (April 7, 2025)
- [Memorandum Opinion and Order Granting Preliminary Injunction](#) [\[link-5\]](#) (April 24, 2025)
- [Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment](#) [\[link-6\]](#) (July 11, 2025)
- [Plaintiffs' Statement of Undisputed Material Facts](#) [\[link-7\]](#) (July 11, 2025)
- [Opinion Granting Summary Judgment](#) [\[link-8\]](#) (October 31, 2025)

Other Documents

- Letter to EAC Regarding Executive Order
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[\[link-9\]](#) (March 27, 2025)

- Press Release Regarding Preliminary Injunction
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[\[link-10\]](#) (April 24, 2025)

- Letter to EAC Regarding Section 4(b) of the Executive Order
-

[\[link-11\]](#) (May 15, 2025)

- Letter to EAC Regarding State Requests to Require Documentary Proof of Citizenship
-

[\[link-12\]](#) (May 30, 2025)

- Brennan Center Amicus Brief in *State of Washington v. Trump*
-

[\[link-13\]](#) (July 24, 2025)

- Brennan Center Letter to State Election Officials Regarding Executive Order 14248
-

[\[link-14\]](#) (July 30, 2025)

- Brennan Center and Co-counsel Comments in Response to America First Legal's Petition for EAC Rulemaking
-

[\[link-15\]](#) (October 20, 2025)

- Letter to EAC Regarding Federal Voter Registration Form Proposal
-

[\[link-16\]](#) (November 10, 2025)

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First Name

Last Name

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SIGN ME UP

We respect **your privacy**.

Links

link-1: unlawful <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/letter-to-eac-regarding-executive-order-on-elections.pdf?inline=1>

link-2: Complaint <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/complaint-lwv-v-trump.pdf?inline=1>

link-3: Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/motion-lwv-v-trump.pdf?inline=1>

link-4: Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction

<https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/memo-in-support-lwv-v-trump.pdf?inline=1>

link-5: Memorandum Opinion and Order Granting Preliminary Injunction

<https://www.brennancenter.org/media/13927/download/2025-4-24-memo-op-and-order-granting-pi.pdf?inline=1>

link-6: Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment

https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14138/download/brief-stamped_0.pdf?inline=1

link-7: Plaintiffs' Statement of Undisputed Material Facts <https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14139/download/sumf-stamped.pdf?inline=1>

link-8: Opinion Granting Summary Judgment <https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14642/download/218-msj-opinion.pdf?inline=1>

link-9: Letter to EAC Regarding Executive Order <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/letter-to-eac-regarding-executive-order-on-elections.pdf?inline=1>

link-10: Press Release Regarding Preliminary Injunction <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/court-blocks-executive-orders-mandate-require-citizenship-documents>

link-11: Letter to EAC Regarding Section 4(b) of the Executive Order

<https://www.brennancenter.org/media/13960/download/2025.05.15-letter-re-implementation-of-section-4-b-of-eo-no-14248.pdf?inline=1>

link-12: Letter to EAC Regarding State Requests to Require Documentary Proof of Citizenship

https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14003/download/2025.05.30-letter-re-state-requests-to-require-documentary-proof-of-citizenship_0.pdf?inline=1

link-13: Brennan Center Amicus Brief in State of Washington v. Trump

<https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14196/download/89-amicus-brief-of-brennan-center-for-justice.pdf?inline=1>

link-14: Brennan Center Letter to State Election Officials Regarding Executive Order 14248

<https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14255/download/brennan-center-letter-regarding-executive-order-14248.pdf?inline=1>

link-15: Brennan Center and Co-counsel Comments in Response to America First Legal's Petition for EAC Rulemaking

https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14585/download/2025.10.20-comment.update-10-22.final_.pdf?inline=1

link-16: Letter to EAC Regarding Federal Voter Registration Form Proposal

<https://www.brennancenter.org/media/14740/download/2025.11.10-letter-to-eac-re-oct-17-2025-proposal-regarding-federal-voter-registration-form.pdf?inline=1>