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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Chip Roy
U.S. House of Representatives
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 7296 – Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Roy,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 7296, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act. Kern County remains committed to administering elections that are fair, secure, transparent, and conducted in accordance with federal and state law. We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies intended to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of federal elections and ensure that voter eligibility standards established by law are consistently applied.

The Board previously expressed its support for H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, recognizing the importance of strengthening verification processes to promote election integrity. H.R. 7296 builds upon those earlier efforts by providing more detailed implementation frameworks and verification mechanisms, and we view this legislation as a continuation of the policy goals the Board has supported in prior federal proposals.

As a county responsible for administering elections across a large and geographically diverse region of California, Kern County recognizes both the importance and complexity of implementing election integrity measures at the local level. The proposed requirement for documentary proof of United States citizenship for voter registration in federal elections represents a significant policy change that, if implemented effectively, may enhance public trust by reinforcing lawful eligibility standards.

We particularly note the bill's provisions to improve verification processes through coordination with federal agencies and databases, clarify procedures for maintaining accurate voter rolls, and establish clear standards regarding documentation of citizenship. Measures that promote accuracy and consistency in voter registration can support public confidence while strengthening the integrity of election administration.

At the same time, we respectfully emphasize that counties serve as the frontline administrators responsible for implementing federal election mandates. Successful implementation of H.R. 7296 will depend on ensuring that local election officials are provided with the tools, clarity, and

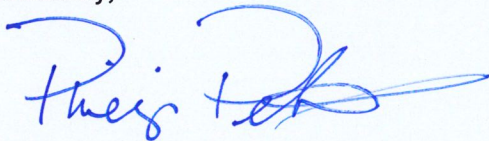
protections necessary to administer these requirements effectively. In that regard, we encourage consideration of the following implementation principles:

- Clear and timely federal guidance to assist states and counties in integrating new verification requirements into existing voter registration systems;
- Adequate federal resources and funding to address increased administrative workload, staffing needs, training, and technology upgrades associated with documentary verification and database coordination;
- Reasonable implementation timelines that account for state election law frameworks and operational realities facing local election offices;
- Safe harbor protections and clear standards for local election officials acting in good faith to comply with federal requirements, particularly where new documentation or verification procedures introduce legal or administrative complexity.

Kern County remains committed to conducting elections that uphold both security and accessibility while maintaining public trust in the electoral process. We believe that policies designed to strengthen verification of voter eligibility, when paired with clear guidance and support for local implementation, can contribute meaningfully to these shared goals.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue. Please consider this letter an expression of support from the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the objectives outlined in H.R. 7296.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs