



## **Fact Sheet: Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill Will Kneecap Our Democracy**

### **Summary:**

Extreme House Republicans are weaponizing the appropriations process to undermine our democracy and make it harder for Americans to vote, including by zeroing out election security grants that states use to update election technology and run safe elections and prohibiting the implementation of an executive order to increase voter registration and turnout.

### **Specific Provisions:**

**The Financial Services And General Government Appropriations Bill Provides No Funding For Election Security Grants, “Making Our Elections Less Secure.”** “Making our elections less secure with no funding for Election Security Grants. [...] Election Assistance Commission (EAC)/Election Security Grants — No funding is included for Election Security Grants, a \$75 million reduction from the 2023 level. For EAC’s salaries and expenses, \$20 million is provided, a decrease of \$8 million from 2023 and \$13.8 million from the request.” [House Appropriations Democrats Press Release, [7/13/23](#)]

- **Help America Vote Act Election Security Grants “Provides States With Additional Resources To Improve The Administration Of Elections For Federal Office, Including To Enhance Technology And Make Certain Election Security Improvements.** “HAVA Election Security grants are formula grants that were first appropriated in 2018 (Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018). Authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the Election Security grant program marked the first new HAVA appropriation since 2010. Election Security funding provides states with additional resources to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements.” [United States Election Assistance Commission, [8/07/23](#)]
- **Election Security Grants Can Be Used By States To Implement New Election Administration Standards, Including Replacing Old Voting Systems, Improving Voter Education And Poll Worker Training, Expanding Provisional Voting, And Expanding Accessibility Offerings At Polling Places.** “Provided funding to help states meet these

new standards and continue to evolve by replacing voting systems, improving voter education and poll worker training, expanding provisional voting, and expanding accessibility offerings at polling places.” [United States Election Assistance Commission, accessed [8/30/23](#)]

**The Financial Services And General Government Appropriations Bill “Prohibits The Implementation Of The Executive Order On Promoting Access To Voting With Certain Exceptions, Making It More Difficult For People To Vote.”** “The bill also includes other government-wide riders to: [...] Prohibits the implementation of the Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting with certain exceptions, making it more difficult for people to vote.” [House Appropriations Democrats Press Release, [7/13/23](#)]

- **President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting Directed Federal Agencies To Identify Ways In Which They Could Increase Voter Registration And Turnout.** “Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of my Administration to promote and defend the right to vote for all Americans who are legally entitled to participate in elections. It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to expand access to, and education about, voter registration and election information, and to combat misinformation, in order to enable all eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.

Sec. 3. Expanding Access to Voter Registration and Election Information. Agencies shall consider ways to expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process.” [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, [3/07/21](#)]

- **President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting Directed Agencies To Identify Ways To Use Their Existing Infrastructure To Promote Voter Registration And Turnout; To Solicit And Facilitate Approved Nonpartisan Third-Party Organizations To Provide Voter Registration Services On Agency Premises; To Promote And Expand Multilingual Voter Registration; And To Research Any Identity Documents Issued By The Agency To The Public Could Satisfy State Voter Identification Laws.** “ Sec. 3. Expanding Access to Voter Registration and Election Information. Agencies shall consider ways to expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process.
  - (a) The head of each agency shall evaluate ways in which the agency can, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, promote voter registration and voter participation. This effort shall include consideration of:
    - (i) ways to provide relevant information in the course of activities or services that directly engage with the public — including through agency materials, websites, online forms, social media platforms, and other points of public access — about how to register to vote, how to request a vote-by-mail ballot, and how to cast a ballot in upcoming elections;

(ii) ways to facilitate seamless transition from agencies' websites directly to State online voter registration systems or appropriate Federal websites, such as Vote.gov;

(iii) ways to provide access to voter registration services and vote-by-mail ballot applications in the course of activities or services that directly engage with the public, including:

(A) distributing voter registration and vote-by-mail ballot application forms, and providing access to applicable State online systems for individuals who can take advantage of those systems;

(B) assisting applicants in completing voter registration and vote-by-mail ballot application forms in a manner consistent with all relevant State laws; and

(C) soliciting and facilitating approved, nonpartisan third-party organizations and State officials to provide voter registration services on agency premises;

(iv) ways to promote and expand access to multilingual voter registration and election information, and to promote equal participation in the electoral process for all eligible citizens of all backgrounds; and

(v) whether, consistent with applicable law, any identity documents issued by the agency to members of the public can be issued in a form that satisfies State voter identification laws." [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, [3/07/21](#)]

- **President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting Directed The Department Of Justice To Ensure Access To Voter Registration For Eligible Individuals In Federal Custody.** " Sec. 9. Ensuring Access to Voter Registration for Eligible Individuals in Federal Custody. (a) The Attorney General shall establish procedures, consistent with applicable law, to provide educational materials related to voter registration and voting and, to the extent practicable, to facilitate voter registration, for all eligible individuals in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Such educational materials shall be incorporated into the reentry planning procedures required under section 4042(a)(7) of title 18, United States Code. The educational materials should also notify individuals leaving Federal custody of the restrictions, if any, on their ability to vote under the laws of the State where the individual resides and, if any such restrictions exist, the point at which the individual's rights will be restored under applicable State law." [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, [3/07/21](#)]

- **The Repeal Of President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting Would Not Apply To The Sections Related To Overseas Citizens/Military, Tribes, And Disabled Individuals.** “Prevents implementation of President Biden’s Executive Order 14019, related to voting access and turnout, except for overseas citizens/military, tribes, and disabled individuals.” [House Appropriations Republicans, [6/22/23](#)]