



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on September 2, 2025

Trump Pledges Voter ID Mandate: Election Integrity or Power Grab?

President Donald Trump is doubling down on election rules. On Saturday, he announced that every American vote must come with a government-issued ID. “Voter I.D. Must Be Part of Every Single Vote. NO EXCEPTIONS!” he declared on [Truth Social](#).

He said he would back up his demand with executive authority. “I Will Be Doing An Executive Order To That End!!!” he wrote, adding that only those “very ill” or serving “far away military” would be allowed to vote by mail. Everyone else, he insisted, would have to use paper ballots.



AP Images

The announcement comes while Trump is still locked in a legal fight over his earlier order requiring proof of citizenship at the polls. More than a reaction to that case, it looks like part of a larger drive to centralize how Americans identify themselves, moving the country toward a system where voting, finance, and even medical records are tied together under federal control.

The March Executive Order

This is not Trump’s first attempt to rewrite voting rules by decree. In March, he issued an [executive order](#) aimed at overhauling federal voter registration. It required individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship — such as a passport or naturalization papers — to register using the federal voter form. It also directed federal agencies to verify citizenship before offering registration, banned counting mail ballots received after Election Day, threatened to withhold federal election funding from non-compliant states, and empowered federal oversight of voter rolls.

Almost immediately, the order ran into legal resistance. On April 24, Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, D.C., issued a 120-page ruling blocking key provisions. [She found them unconstitutional](#), emphasizing that regulating elections is a power reserved for Congress and the states — not the president. She specifically halted the proof-of-citizenship mandate and the order for federal agencies to verify eligibility.

Then, on June 13, Judge Denise J. Casper in Massachusetts [issued another injunction](#). She blocked further provisions, including the mandate to set Election Day as the national cutoff for mail ballots and the threat to penalize states through funding cuts. Judge Casper agreed with state attorneys general that these measures posed “irreparable harm,” particularly because many eligible voters lack ready access to the required documentation.

These rulings underscore a consistent legal principle: The presidential order dramatically overstepped constitutional bounds, intruding on election powers that belong to Congress and the states. Both judges made it clear the president cannot unilaterally reshape voting rules. Now, with his latest vow, Trump is testing those limits again.



State Voter ID Laws

Trump's call for voter ID is not without precedent. Many states already require some form of identification at the polls. Currently, [36 states](#) have voter ID laws on the books, and several of them demand a government-issued photo ID before a ballot can be cast. States such as Georgia, Indiana, and Wisconsin have some of the strictest rules, while others, such as Virginia and Ohio, allow a broader range of documents.

These laws have proven popular at the state level. Legislatures continue to introduce new measures, and courts have often upheld them as legitimate tools to safeguard elections. Even in states that allow voters without ID to cast provisional ballots, there is steady momentum toward tightening verification rules.

That steady trend shows why Trump's proposal resonates with many voters. But by attempting to impose such rules through federal executive order, he risks colliding with the constitutional structure that leaves election procedures largely in the hands of the states.

Not everyone sees Trump's vow as just another version of what states are already doing. Some liberty-minded observers warn that the federal push points in a very different direction.

Federal Coup d'État?

Catherine Austin Fitts, a former Housing and Urban Development official and investment banker, has been one of the sharpest critics. "DJT implementing the control grid," [she warned](#) on social media. "The goal is digital IDs to work with programmable money. This will give the bankers control of all fiscal policy and make any votes worthless. This is a coup d'état."

For Fitts, the election push is only one piece of a much larger project. She describes it as the construction of a full-spectrum control grid —

an electronic network of digital telecommunication and information systems that allows individuals to be surveilled, tracked, and made subject to invasive controls applied to their financial transactions and resource use (such as electricity, food, water, transportation) — compromising, if not ending, all human rights and liberties.

In other words, what sounds like a call for election security could instead become a keystone of full-spectrum surveillance. Fitts has gone so far as to [compile a checklist](#) of Trump administration actions that, taken together, map the steady build-out of this digital control grid.

Control Grid

Fitts's warning echoes a broader chorus of criticism that has grown louder since Trump returned to office. State-level voter ID laws may be debated and decided locally, but his latest vow fits into a larger pattern of federal centralization.

Among the most significant moves is the administration's decision to enforce [REAL ID](#). This post-9/11 law sets strict federal standards for driver's licenses and state IDs, effectively making it the nationwide standard for identification.

Apparently, it has also allowed private-sector pilots for a digital U.S. dollar to continue operating. These include projects launched by the [Digital Dollar Project](#). At the same time, Trump's January [executive order](#) bars federal agencies from creating or promoting a central bank digital currency (CBDC). The



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intent is clear. Programmable money is advancing, but through corporate issuers bound by federal rules rather than directly through the Federal Reserve.

That direction sharpened with the [GENIUS Act](#), signed on July 18, which established the first federal framework for stablecoins. These privately issued, dollar-backed tokens must hold full reserves, publish monthly disclosures, and comply with provisions that let regulators freeze or block assets.

And then there is Palantir Technologies — the CIA-seeded data firm now [tasked](#) with building a centralized, AI-driven platform to integrate records across federal agencies: tax, Social Security, immigration, medical data, and more.

Each of these moves can be defended as modernization. But together they sketch something else: a digital regime where identity, money, [health records](#), and voting are no longer separate spheres, but strands woven into one federally monitored system.

Constitutional Crossroads

The Constitution gives Congress and the states authority over elections, not the president. That balance was reaffirmed when the courts blocked Trump's March order, and it will be tested again if he tries to mandate voter ID and paper ballots by decree. At stake is not only how Americans vote; it is about whether one branch of government can seize powers the Founders reserved to another.



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