

FAIR ELECTION FUND REPORT

BILLIONAIRES LAURA AND JOHN ARNOLD ARE FIGHTING AGAINST TRUMP'S ELECTION INTEGRITY EFFORTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- BROOKINGS INSTITUTION
- THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (CAP)
- CENTER FOR BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES (CBPP)
- NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In less than two years in office, President Trump has secured America's border, cut taxes by \$4.5 trillion for working families, and achieved record-breaking domestic energy production. The President has now made election integrity his top issue and is fighting Democrats in Congress to pass new laws that ensure voters in America are citizens with valid identification.

Last week, the President called on the Senate to stay in Washington until they pass the SAVE America Act. The House has already stepped up by passing a budget with grant funding to enact the law at the state level.

The President's top priority is currently being blocked by liberal special interest groups and Senate Democrats. This opposition is, in many cases, being funded by billionaires like Laura and John Arnold, who have spent millions funding the groups that are fighting to stop voter identification laws.

THE ARNOLDS GAVE **OVER \$22 MILLION** TO ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING VOTE IDENTIFICATION

The following research identified 25 instances where groups funded by Laura and John Arnold have actively campaigned against legislation establishing voter identification laws or the SAVE America Act specifically. The groups outlined in this report have received at least \$22 million from Laura and John Arnold.

1. ACLU

**BETWEEN \$5-\$9.99
MILLION**

The Arnolds have given between \$5 million and \$9.99 million to the ACLU. The ACLU is one of the largest and most vocal opponents of the SAVE America Act. Since February, the ACLU has been using its national lobbying and advertising budget to kill the legislation and scuttle President Trump's biggest policy goal.

- ❖ **March 16, 2025:** Sent a letter opposing the SAVE America Act and encouraging every U.S. Senator to oppose the bill.
- ❖ **March 28, 2025:** Joined a liberal coalition of organizations opposed to H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, claiming that the SAVE Act “perpetuates a particularly heinous version of the voter fraud myth.”
- ❖ **February 11, 2026:** Issued a press release calling the SAVE America Act and simple voter identification a “dangerous assault on democracy” and condemned the House-passed bill.
- ❖ **February 24, 2026:** Joined a coalition of liberal organizations opposing passage of voter identification laws in the U.S. Senate.
- ❖ **June 26, 2026:** Launched a \$24.5 million lobbying campaign to stop passage of the SAVE America Act and prevent proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in U.S. elections.
- ❖ Operating an online petition and switchboard to funnel liberal comments to Congress discouraging any elected official from supporting voter ID laws

2. BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER (BPC)

OVER \$2.25 MILLION

The Arnolds have given over \$2.25 million to the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC). BPC is a Washington, D.C. think tank that purports to be bipartisan but regularly fights against President Trump's America First agenda. John and Laura Arnold are major funders of BPC and are using the organization's status as a non-partisan arbiter on policy to add credibility to their campaign against voter ID laws.

- ◆ **March 16, 2026:** Released a research report meant to dissuade support for the voter identification laws by attempting to show many Americans do not have access to ID.
- ◆ **April 2026:** The Director of BPC's "Elections Project," Orey Wren, released a video criticizing voter identification laws and argued that "a lot of Americans don't have these types of documents readily available."
- ◆ **July 17, 2026:** Published a supposedly objective critique of the SAVE America Act that claimed that "instances of non-citizen voting are rare" and ultimately concluded that "policymakers avoid making major changes in an election year."
- ◆ **July 22, 2026:** Released a policy brief for lawmakers meant to downplay the risks of noncitizens voting in elections around the country.

3. BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

AT LEAST \$5.7 MILLION

The Arnolds have given at least \$5.7 million to the Brookings Institution. One of D.C.'s oldest think tanks, the Brookings Institution is using its reputation on Capitol Hill to block enactment of voter identification by defining it as an attempt to restrict voting rights. The Arnolds have given millions to Brookings and are bankrolling the attempt to misrepresent voter ID as a restriction on voting rather than safeguarding the electoral process.

» **March 26, 2025:** Called the SAVE Act an “attempt to restrict voting rights” and claimed the bill would “disenfranchise approximately 60 million rural voters.”

4. THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (CAP)

OVER \$1.5 MILLION

The Arnolds have given more than \$1.5 million to The Center for American Progress (CAP). CAP is an extremely liberal group that has been given more than \$1.5 million by the Arnolds over the past five years. CAP has been a vocal opponent of the SAVE America Act and other efforts to protect the integrity of U.S. elections. The organization routinely refers to the SAVE America Act as a “rebrand” of the SAVE Act. Additionally, CAP is leading efforts urging individuals to petition Congress to block the SAVE Act.

- ❖ **January 31, 2025:** CAP published an [article](#) claiming that the SAVE Act would “disenfranchise millions of citizens,” arguing that millions of citizens do not have the proper documentation to comply with the law’s requirements.
- ❖ **January 31, 2025:** CAP published a “[fact sheet](#)” on the SAVE Act, stating, if passed, the bill “would upend online voter registration, make it impossible to mail in a registration application, and eliminate voter registration drives.”
- ❖ **February 28, 2025:** CAP released an [article](#) tying the SAVE Act requirements to rural America and argued that “many rural Americans would be forced to drive hours and cross hundreds of miles to show documentation of citizenship, in person, in order to register to vote.”
- ❖ **February 27, 2026:** CAP released a [report](#) criticizing the SAVE America Act, calling it “extreme.” The report argues that the “administration seems intent on manipulating election rules and taking away the power of the American people.” The report argues that proponents of the law want to block certain citizens from voting and have no interest in election integrity.
- ❖ **June 29, 2026:** CAP published a [report](#) criticizing state efforts to implement SAVE Act-like laws at the state level while federal efforts, including the SAVE Act and SAVE America Act, remain stalled. The report argued that “voter registration would ... be upended.”

5. THE CENTER ON BUDGET & POLICY PRIORITIES (CBPP)

OVER \$2 MILLION

The Arnolds have given over [\\$2 million](#) to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). CBPP claims to be a nonpartisan research institute while receiving funds from left-of-center grantmaking foundations and labor unions. The organization has a clear left-of-center lean in its research, coordinating 40 left-of-center think tanks while being critical of efforts to reform the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and reconciliation efforts by the Republican-led Congress.

While the organization has not specifically commented on the SAVE America Act, they have actively advocated against policies that would seek to protect the integrity of our voterrolls.

◆ **March 2022:** Published a blog arguing that voter ID laws worsen inequities for low-income and people of color to vote. Specifically, the research argued that the Mississippi legislature's efforts to "flag potential non-citizen voters" without proof of citizenship would "have a chilling effect on voting."

◆ **December 2025:** Published a blog alleging that the Trump administration's efforts to ensure only citizens vote in U.S. elections through Social Security Administration data would "potentially disenfranchis[e] U.S. citizen voters ahead of the midterm elections."

6. NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

NEARLY \$650,000

The Arnolds have given nearly \$650,000 to The National Partnership for Women and Families (NPWF). NPWF is a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization whose stated goal is to improve the lives of women and families. The group opposes voter ID laws because of the perceived correlation between voter ID and abortion restrictions.

◆ **May 2024:** Published research "explor[ing] the intersection of state abortion policy and restrictive voting policies," concluding that "the states with the most restrictive abortion access policies are also the states with the greatest barriers to voting."

◆ **March 28, 2025:** Chaired a liberal coalition of organizations opposed to H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, claiming that the SAVE Act "perpetuates a particularly heinous version of the voter fraud myth."

◆ **January 16, 2026:** Authored a list of "53 Ways the Second Trump Administration Is Harming Women and Families" that includes President Trump's executive order on Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections, which in part would require proof of citizenship to vote.

◆ **February 24, 2026:** Joined with a liberal coalition of groups opposing voter ID laws across the board, including the SAVE America Act, the Make Elections Great Again Act, and the SAVE Act.

7. PLANNED PARENTHOOD • ACTION FUND

**BETWEEN \$5-\$9.99
MILLION**

The Arnolds have given between \$5 million and \$9.99 million to The Planned Parenthood Action Fund. The Planned Parenthood Action Fund is the 501(c)(4) arm of Planned Parenthood that “engages in educational, advocacy, and limited electoral activity, including grassroots organizing, legislative advocacy, and voter education” and works to elect pro-abortion Democrats over pro-life lawmakers. The Planned Parenthood Action Fund believes that requiring identification to vote is “voter suppression” that “discourage[s] people from going to the polls” and threatens access to abortion.

❖ **March 28, 2025:** Joined a coalition of liberal groups signing onto a letter opposing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, arguing that it required “onerous documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections.”

❖ **February 24, 2026:** Signed onto a letter opposing voter identification requirements and bills that would implement them, including the SAVE America Act, the Make Elections Great Again Act, and the SAVE Act, saying that the “proof of citizenship requirements in these bills are not necessary to secure American elections.”

CONCLUSION

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation Funded an Anti-Voter ID Law Study

In 2019, the group Research Improving People’s Lives [RIPL] released a study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research that was critical of Rhode Island’s voter ID law, finding that “[t]urnout, registration, and voting conditional on registration fell for those without licenses after the law passed.” According to The Providence Journal, RIPL “was founded by [Justine S.] Hastings, an economist, in 2015 after the Laura and John Arnold Foundation ‘reached out’ to ‘explore the possibility of scaling the type of high-impact rigorous research she is known for.’” Justine Hastings is a coauthor of the study, which in its acknowledgements expressly thanked “the Laura and John Arnold Foundation ... for financial support.”

The study - entitled “Effects of Photo ID Laws on Registration and Turnout: Evidence from Rhode Island” - was hailed by opponents of Rhode Island’s voter ID law for “showing the law stifled voting by low-income residents.” The paper’s overall conclusion purported to show that the voter ID law depressed voter turnout, registration, and voting conditional on registration:

This paper provides new empirical evidence on the effects of photo ID laws on turnout, registration, and voting conditional on registration. In all presidential election specifications, we find a significant negative effect of the photo ID requirement on the probability that people without driver’s licenses vote and the probability that they register to vote. This suggests previous studies that only used data on registered voters may have understated the effect of photo ID requirements. We do not find compelling evidence that voters responded to the photo ID requirement by either proactively obtaining driver’s licenses, except potentially among very young voters. We also do not find that people without photo IDs used mail ballots as a substitute for voting at the polls.

The Arnold-funded study, however, showed significant shortcomings that even opponents of Rhode Island’s voter ID law could not ignore. Rhode Island’s then-Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea - who opposed the voter ID law, promised to study its effects on voter turnout during her campaign, and even worked with RIPL to assess the law - declined to back the study because of its deficiencies in considering the gamut of acceptable identification for voting beyond just driver’s licenses. According to Gorbea’s spokesperson, “their study only compared Rhode Islanders with a RI driver’s license and those without. It did not include Rhode Islanders who have other IDs acceptable for voting, such as State IDs, student IDs, military ID cards, U.S. Passports, Tribal IDs or the Voter ID cards issued by our office ... Because the study did not include other forms of ID that are acceptable for voting, such as student IDs or state IDs, we felt the methodology was incomplete.”

That this study touts its “new empirical evidence” and desire to “preserv[e] the integrity of the electoral process” while leaving such a gap in its analysis shows that the authors were chasing a predetermined outcome to show the “harms” of voter ID laws. And the Arnolds, who have meticulously curated a reputation for backing “evidence-based policy solutions,” were more than happy to fund a sloppy study that undercut voter ID laws.