

Appeals Court Blocks Trump's Plan to Stop Noncitizens from Getting Mail Ballots

Twenty-three states have successfully blocked President Donald Trump's effort to create a federal list of eligible voters, dealing a significant blow to the administration's push to secure mail-in voting ahead of future elections.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that halted Trump's executive order. The order would have established a federal roster of eligible voters and restricted the delivery of mail ballots only to those whose names appeared on that list.

The administration had argued the measure was necessary to prevent non-citizens from casting ballots. But the coalition of states fighting the order claimed it would cause chaos at the polls and invite abuse.

At the heart of the legal battle is a fundamental question about who controls American elections. The states that filed suit argued Trump exceeded his constitutional authority with the executive order. Under the Constitution, they contend, election rules are set by states and Congress, not the executive branch.

The appeals court sided with the states, rejecting the Trump administration's attempt to move forward with the mail-in voter restrictions while litigation continues.



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Trump has long warned about vulnerabilities in the mail voting system, particularly the potential for ballots to reach

individuals who aren't legally permitted to vote. His executive order sought to address those concerns by creating federal safeguards, ensuring that only verified citizens would receive mail ballots.

State election officials, however, pushed back hard. They argued that a federal voter list would create more problems than it solved. The logistics of implementing such a system across dozens of states with different election laws and procedures would be enormous. Officials warned the resulting confusion could disenfranchise legitimate voters.

The lawsuit brought by the states made clear their view that the president had overstepped. The Constitution grants states broad authority over how they conduct elections. Congress also plays a role in setting certain federal election standards. But the executive branch, the states argued, does not have the power to unilaterally impose new requirements on how mail ballots are distributed.

For Americans concerned about election integrity, the ruling represents a frustrating setback. The question of non-citizen voting has become increasingly urgent as the border crisis has brought millions of illegal immigrants into the country. While it remains illegal for non-citizens to vote in federal elections, critics argue that without proper safeguards, there's no reliable way to enforce that prohibition.

Supporters of Trump's order saw it as a common-sense measure to ensure that only eligible Americans participate in choosing their leaders. The federal voter list, they argued, would have provided a straightforward way to verify eligibility before ballots went out.

The appeals court's decision keeps the executive order on hold. The administration could seek further review, but for now, the states have prevailed in their argument that the president cannot impose these restrictions without

congressional authorization.

The legal fight highlights the ongoing tension between federal efforts to standardize election security and the traditional role of states in running their own elections. As mail voting continues to expand across the country, that tension shows no signs of easing.

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