

S 4880

Protecting Our Democracy Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Oct 26, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Oct 26, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4880>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 26, 2020
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 26, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 27, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8363	Related bill	Sep 23, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, the Budget, Transportation and Infrastructure, Rules, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
116 HR 8335	Related bill	Sep 22, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 7935	Related bill	Aug 4, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
116 HR 7864	Related bill	Jul 30, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
116 HR 7694	Related bill	Jul 23, 2020: Ordered to be Reported (Amended).
116 S 4279	Related bill	Jul 22, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
116 S 3889	Related bill	Jun 4, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
116 HR 6984	Related bill	May 22, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
116 HR 6689	Related bill	May 1, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
116 S 2413	Related bill	Aug 1, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
116 S 2242	Related bill	Jul 23, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
116 HR 1847	Related bill	Jul 18, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
116 HR 3395	Related bill	Jun 20, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
116 HR 1064	Related bill	Feb 12, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Protecting Our Democracy Act

This bill addresses issues involving (1) abuses of presidential power; (2) checks and balances, accountability, and transparency; and (3) foreign interference in elections.

Specifically, regarding abuses of presidential power, the bill

- requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the President to submit to Congress specified materials relating to certain pardons;
- prohibits self-pardons by the President;
- suspends the statute of limitations for any federal offense committed by a sitting President or Vice President;
- prohibits the acceptance of foreign or domestic emoluments, authorizes civil actions by Congress concerning foreign emoluments, and requires the President to make certain disclosures; and
- sets forth provisions regarding enforcement authority of the Office of Government Ethics and Office of Special Counsel jurisdiction.

To address checks and balances, accountability, and transparency, the bill, among other things

- authorizes specified actions to enforce congressional subpoenas,
- requires appropriations to be made available for obligation in a timely manner,
- imposes limits on presidential declarations of emergencies,
- requires DOJ to maintain a log of communications between it and the White House regarding certain investigations,
- requires cause for removal of inspectors general,
- increases whistleblower protections,
- reauthorizes the Merit Systems Protection Board, and
- establishes penalties for political appointees who engage in prohibited political activities.

To protect against foreign interference in elections, the bill

- requires federal campaign reporting of foreign contacts,
- requires federal campaigns to establish a foreign contacts compliance policy, and
- specifies that foreign donations to political campaigns and candidates of nonpublic information relating to a candidate are prohibited.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 26, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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