

S 2921

Protecting Our Democracy Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Sep 30, 2021

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. (Sep 30, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2921>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 30, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 3, 2022
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 21, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 30, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2988	Related bill	Sep 19, 2022: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
117 HR 5314	Related bill	Dec 13, 2021: Received in the Senate.
117 HR 2994	Related bill	Jul 20, 2021: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
117 HR 347	Related bill	Jan 19, 2021: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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.

Summary (as of Sep 30, 2021)

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 federal offenses committed by a sitting President or Vice President,
- prohibits the acceptance of foreign or domestic emoluments, and
- sets forth provisions regarding Office of Government Ethics and Office of Special Counsel jurisdiction and enforcement authority.

To address checks and balances, accountability, and transparency, the bill

- authorizes specified actions to enforce congressional subpoenas,
- imposes limits on presidential declarations of emergencies,
- requires DOJ to maintain a log of specified communications between itself and the White House,
- requires cause for removal of inspectors general,
- increases whistleblower protections,
- requires a candidate for President or Vice President to submit to the Federal Election Commission a copy of the individual's income tax returns for the 10 most recent taxable years, 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

- **Sep 30, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 30, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.