

## 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	<b>Sep 19, 2022:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
117 HR 5314	Related bill	<b>Dec 13, 2021:</b> Received in the Senate.
117 HR 2994	Related bill	<b>Jul 20, 2021:</b> Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
117 HR 347	Related bill	<b>Jan 19, 2021:</b> 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.