



An easy-to-use messaging system linking ideas with values and talking points

**ISSUE | CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

**RELEVANT VALUES**

- Respect
- Prudence
- Justice
- Compassion
- Fidelity
- Humility
- Temperance

**KEY PRINCIPLES**

*A healthy democracy requires vigorous engagement by qualified voters.*

- Fragmented local election systems need rigorous national and state standards
- Voting laws shouldn't discriminate (e.g., minority and poor voters)
- Obsolete voting customs should be adjusted to encourage voting
- Polling places should be efficiently deployed, staffed and operated
- Controls should address severest threats (e.g., hacking and absentee ballots)
- Voting technology should be cost-effective, transparent and secure

**COMMON COUNTER POINTS**

- Electoral integrity is paramount
- Only qualified citizens should vote
- Only strong controls can prevent fraud
- Requiring photo IDs is commonsense
- Voting restrictions are necessary
- Elections cost too much money

**RELEVANT QUOTES**

**Louis Brandeis:** "The most important political office is that of private citizen."

**Abraham Lincoln:** "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

**Reinhold Niebuhr:** "Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."

**FDR:** "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves ... by not voting."

**Theodore Hesburgh:** "Voting is a civic sacrament."

**RECOMMENDED POLICIES**

*Increase voter participation at all levels by improving access, convenience and integrity.*

- Standardize voting rules (e.g., identification protocols) and upgrade registration and voting procedures (e.g., outreach, auto cross-registration and online processes)
- Eliminate unnecessary voting restrictions (e.g., hard-to-obtain ID cards, automatic de-registration) and facilitate voting for all citizens (e.g., early voting, no excuse absentee and mail-in voting)
- Update voting rules to improve participation (e.g., make election day holiday, standardize local and national election cycles and expand hours)
- Improve polling place distribution and management (e.g., redeploy, improve access, realign staffing, upgrade management and increase training)
- Enhance controls for absentee and mail-in voting, implement provisional voting, improve voting machine security and ensure post-election audit capabilities)
- Replace vulnerable proprietary, paperless systems (e.g., hybrid paper-based voting systems) and implement modern, open source voting technology

**RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS**

- We cannot have a healthy democracy without voter participation
- Voter qualifications should not impair fundamental voting rights
- We don't have to choose between voter fraud and voting rights
- Some people lack drivers licenses, passports and other forms of photo ID
- If red tape is bad for business, why should it be acceptable for people?
- Every person's time is too precious to tolerate long lines on election day

**LINKS RELEVANT**

- **Watch** – learn more about key facts and other pertinent data
- **Stories** – better understand how electoral laws impact individuals
- **Ideas** – best practices and other policy measures worth considering
- **Bridge** – proven groups in your state or community that share your concerns
- **Scorecard** – see how your state or community measures