ISSUE | CIVIC PARTICIPATION

OVERVIEW

Each state should adopt voting laws and policies that, while minimizing fraud and improving efficiency, would dramatically improve the competitiveness of state and local elections, elevate voter turnout rates to global levels and increase voter engagement.

☑ FEATURED IDEA

Idea — Reform redistricting process for federal and state offices, e.g.:

- Adopt redistricting standards (via constitutional amendment if necessary) to foster compact districts and competitive elections (e.g., Florida and Oregon)
- Enact legislation prohibiting partisan redistricting plans (e.g., 12 states have adopted such legislation)
- Establish an independent commission to supervise redistricting (e.g., CA)
- Provide public data and tools for crowd-sourcing new district lines (e.g., Florida)

Example — In 2010, 63% of Florida's voters approved Constitutional Amendments No. 5 and 6 which, for first time, created clear, rational redistricting criteria (e.g., compactness, neutrality and competitiveness) and prohibited legislative redistricting plans from favoring an incumbent or party

Benefit — Non-partisan re-districting standards and practices will make districts more compact and competitive, thereby reducing political polarization and increasing voter turnout and other forms of civic engagement

OTHER PROMISING IDEAS

GOAL	☑	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS
Accountability	☐	Strengthen independence of state and local election commissions
	☐	Update voting standards based on core principles and best practices
	☐	Conduct regular independent election system audits
	☐	Issue annual voting performance reports with recommended changes
	☐	Calibrate voting fraud controls to documented risks (e.g., absentee ballots)
Competitive Elections	☐	Cut nominating red tape (e.g., eliminate partisan primaries)
	☐	Improve disclosure and timely reporting of political contributions
	☐	Test innovative electoral systems (e.g., proportional representation, multi-district voting, instant run-off voting and round robin voting)
	☐	Restore public financing for state, local and judicial elections
	☐	Allow voter-directed referenda, initiatives and recall elections
Convenient Registration	☐	Institute seamless portable registration using proven public databases
	☐	Fully integrate voter, driving and vehicle registration processes
	☐	Modernize obsolete voter data purging procedures
	☐	Reinstitute Same Day Registration (SDR) and youth pre-registration programs
Convenient Voting	☐	Redesign and simplify ballots (e.g., improve legibility)
	☐	Expand voting hours and options (e.g., weekend, evening and online voting)
	☐	Appoint more elected positions (e.g., judicial, election and clerical positions)
	☐	Establish rigorous voting system certification guidelines
	☐	Modernize and standardize election systems

IDEA BOX

Check the ideas you like above or submit your own idea and we will connect you with change agents.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEA »

SEE IT.
FIX IT.
OWN IT.
TRACK IT.

2. FIX IT ▶

2.1 IDEAS   2.2 FRAME   2.3 CATALYST   2.4 BRIDGE

Civic Solutions