



**STAND
UP
REPUBLIC**

LIBERTY. EQUALITY. TRUTH.

BLOG

Announcing SUR's Electoral Reform Agenda

America's Constitution revolutionized the very notion of government, and has inspired peoples around the world to realize their freedom and achieve self-rule. But even our Founders knew that they could not design a perfect, unchanging system. Instead, they established sturdy checks and balances as guardrails for liberty and justice in America, leaving the task of further improving our self-government to the people themselves, legislatures across the country, and future generations.

This power for change enabled us to banish the scourge of slavery, recognize the equal rights of all, and build new institutions for transparency and accountability. But we should not declare our evolution complete, or rest on our laurels as new challenges pose new risks to governance structures.

In election laws and practices in particular, we've fallen short of realizing our full democratic potential. That's why Stand Up Republic is proud to announce this electoral reform platform. From innovative ideas to time-tested practices, these reforms will enhance the voice of all Americans, while inspiring more unifying, accountable and effective leadership. These reforms represent another step towards fulfilling the promise of American democracy.

In the coming months and years, Stand Up Republic and its state-level organizations will work in cooperation with other reform-minded organizations and citizens to advance these reforms. We invite all to join us in the cause!

Ranked-choice Voting

Ranked-choice voting allows voters to rank their candidates by preference, incentivizing politicians to appeal to all voters and offer more unifying, accountable and effective leadership rather than catering solely to narrow portions of their natural base. Whether in primary or general elections, at the local, state or national level, ranked-choice voting empowers voters to more fully express their preferences and rewards leaders who build broad constituent coalitions.

Independent Redistricting

The nation's interests are not well served by partisan-drawn electoral districts intended to guarantee parties easier election wins and to limit their accountability to the people. States should institute independent commissions, whether bipartisan or nonpartisan, to ensure that districts are drawn impartially to enhance competition, accountability and representation of all voters.

Automatic Voter Registration

Voting is the most important civic activity in our system of self-government and it should not be difficult for eligible citizens to participate. Automatic voter registration facilitates participation by allowing citizens to receive their registration automatically through a range of other interactions with the state government, such as obtaining a driver's license or paying taxes.

Additionally, states should make it easier for residents to obtain official identification, whether it be a driver's license or another type. There are often hurdles to obtaining an identification that disproportionately impact lower income and minority communities, effectively disenfranchising some eligible voters.

Paper Records for All Votes

Electronic voting machines are common in our digital era and provide important benefits, but they are vulnerable to increasing cyber threats and other tampering. Paper records for all votes help ensure the auditability of our elections and contribute to the legitimacy of their outcomes.

A National Holiday for Election Day

Establishing general Election Day for federal offices as a national holiday will make it easier for millions of Americans to participate in the most fundamental element of our democratic process. Easing the burden of voting on citizens who would otherwise struggle to make it to the polls while enhancing our culture of civic participation will strengthen our democracy.

More Open Ballot Access

Ballot access rules too often make it nearly impossible for citizens to run for office without significant financial resources or major party support. While there is a legitimate need for states to set standards in order to ensure candidates' basic viability, reasonable ballot access laws should allow third-party and independent candidates to participate in the electoral process.

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