

TOPIC AREA: US VOTING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE

Politics is present in debate rounds ranging from the military to hyper specific topics but the way in which elected official obtain office goes largely uncontested. This is much broader than the claim that the electoral college should be abolished or changed, though it would fall within the topic area. The reason that the voting system is important in America because in a democracy supported by representatives voting is how the person who will be the voice of the people is chosen to lead. If this process is corrupt, then the foundation of the government is built on corruption and will only breed more corruption. Regarding this paper voting systems will include districting, voting laws, voting practices, and eligibility to run for elected office. These debated will not only offer educational value for our democratic system, but also allow for testing better ways in which to run our country.

Debate regarding the foundation of our democracy will allow for critique of the current system and value alternative systems. It will expand beyond just the American system as people will look beyond the American system for alternatives to what we use. This will be particularly beneficial as it allows us to better understand the world outside of the US and how their democratic process functions. With harmful practices on the rise such as gerrymandering this topic allows us to discuss the harms of the practice and ways in which we can solve them in the future. In tandem to critique to practices like gerrymandering deeper issues like discrimination can be discussed.

Within this topic arguments like the United States should adopt a ranking system for elected official will allow for the inclusion of third party candidates that currently go largely underrepresented. In doing things like allowing third party candidates more representation will diversify our congress and state legislatures helping dissolve two party system gridlock. Breaking the two-party system can also have world implications as it can change foreign policy directions or economic decisions within the legislating branch of the United States Government.

RESOLUTION & ARGUMENT EXAMPLES

The State of Illinois should adopt a ranked choice voting for electing official to office.

- **Affirmative Arguments:** Third party candidates are largely underrepresented but having an increasing voter base meaning a growing portion of the population is not represented and will not be if they are not matching the size of two the main parties. This erodes trust of the government leading to people taking actions into their own hands as they can no longer rely on the government to solve them. This has been linked to mass shootings, increased violence, and crime. This also allows for diversification of the legislature helping with breaking gridlock which occurs because of the two-party system.
- **Negative Arguments:** A ranked choice voting system allows for the most popular candidate to lose which means a larger majority of the people go underrepresented. This

is uniquely bad as it has erupted anger in the aftermath of elections like the 2016 election for example.

The 50 States should adopt policy to change redistricting responsibilities to a non-partisan commission.

- Affirmative Arguments: Current districting can be seen to be full of discrimination and party politics. Removing legislatures from the process lowers the incentives of those drawing maps to draw them in ways that benefit one party over another or strip a group of their ability to elect officials.
- Negative Arguments: Someone must appoint the commission and removing politics is impossible from the process. In Pennsylvania the governor received major backlash for doing just this. When a commission is picked unilaterally it may be even worse than legislatures doing it.

The United States Congress should amend the constitution to abolish the electoral college.

- Affirmative Arguments: The presence of the electoral college allows candidates to focus their time in few states this results in the neglect of others. This is allowed a root cause for voters feeling their vote does not matter. In rather liberal states republicans feel voting republican has no bearing because the electoral college votes will go toward the democratic and the opposite is true for liberals in conservative states.
- Negative Arguments: The electoral college allows each state to impact to the presidential election because with the electoral college it is like 51 different elections occurring to decide the winner of the presidency. It could rather be changed, but the electoral college is essential to the process

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