

Election Reform

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Here are some strategies for making voting more inclusive and easier for people. Some of these strategies are already implemented by some states. For example, the State of Maine allows people to register on Election Day, but most states don't. Check the ones that would help you get out and vote.

Strategies for Election Reform

- ☐ Allow people to register to vote on Election Day.
- ☐ Make Election Day a holiday.
- ☐ Allow people to vote by mail without pre-conditions (for example, incapacitated or absent from the state).
- ☐ Get time off from work to vote.
- ☐ Restore voting rights to ex-offenders who have completed their parole.
- ☐ Use voting machines that allow voters with disabilities to vote privately.
- ☐ Notify voters of their polling place before Election Day.
- ☐ Hold community workshops about how to use the voting machines before the elections.
- ☐ Only require identification to register to vote. Accept a wide range of identification documents to prevent discrimination against those without a driver's license or official ID.

Activity

List election reforms that would help you get out to vote.

Imagine This

Pros and Cons

At least 20 states require all voters to show ID in order to vote. Two states require a government issued photo ID.

Pro: prevents voter fraud

Con: many people don't have a drivers license or photo ID. The percent of African-Americans and Hispanics who don't have a license or photo ID is much higher than for White adults. Those with IDs with outdated addresses, name changes, etc. are not able to vote.

Read more about this topic and the recent related Supreme Court decision at www.nelrc.org/changeagent/extras. Click on "The Debate over Voter Identification."

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