

COLLEGE

part of the college. Let's work together to defeat

RATION

Right to Vote, Administration. We need this. Accurate representation of the people to do a better job.

mandatory, reduced with 54.5% of the stick. We can incentivize everyone

ATIVE OFFICE

the most inner districts, and the most makes it easier to compete. There's no

ON (PR) FOR LEGISLATURE, COUNCILS.

Proportional greater choice Colorado with 5.3 million with 5.1 million. PR with a (MMP) is in the world, as way, Iceland, Europe, 21 of nation. In the electorate

WHAT ISSUES DO APPROVAL AND RANKED CHOICE VOTING NOT ADDRESS?

Both Ranked Choice (RCV) and Approval Voting (AV) fail to address issues connected with Single Winner Districts. RCV and AV both are designed to exclude people, they're not inclusive. They leave large portions of the electorate unrepresented. AV and RCV leave districts subject to gerrymandering, leaving two major problems unresolved. Only Proportional Representation (PR) systems represent nearly everyone and eliminate gerrymandering.

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE, YOU'RE PROBABLY ON THE MENU"

- SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

- Use social media, flyers, events, a web site, YouTube videos and in person presentations to educate people about election issues, history and proposed solutions.
- Build a critical mass necessary for change with a national organization with state chapters.
- Introduce Range Voting and Proportional Representation at the local level.
- Pass the National Popular Vote (NPV) in all the swing states. Roll out NPV in 2018 and Range and PR Voting initiatives in states in time for the 2020 Presidential elections.

- Write Press Releases identifying "Friends of Democracy", candidates who champion the NPV, Range and PR. Work for their election.
- Write Press Releases identifying and work to defeat "Enemies of Democracy", people and organizations that obstruct election reform.

- Work to make the initiative process easier. In Colorado, bypass Amendment 71 by adopting electronic Initiative Petitions.

THE TRUTH SHALL EMERGE FROM A FREE DEBATE.

- JOHN STUART MILL (PARAPHRASE)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Join the "Best Democracy" community on FB.
- Contribute to the FB discussion on election reform.
- Write guest editorials and letters to the editor for your local paper.
- Print or email this flyer from a .pdf file stored in files at the Best Democracy FB page, and distribute it to your friends.
- Show the Best Democracy Presentation to groups.
- Help with research.
- Work on the web site or YouTube videos.
- Redesign the voting system for your local government with your friends. How would you do it?
- Serve on the Board of Best Democracy.
- Organize election reform events.
- Donate funds, participate in fundraising.
- Organize a chapter in your state, local chapters in your city and county. Recruit members.

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BEST DEMOCRACY

DEFINE ELECTION ISSUES. UNDERSTAND ROOT CAUSES. IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS.



We can implement election reform by adopting

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s proven method for

overcoming 100 years of Jim Crow.

1) **Observation:** To resolve an issue, first we need to observe and acknowledge that the problem exists.

2) **Understanding:** Without understanding root causes and why issues persist, no solution(s) will successfully address the underlying issues.

3) **Remedies:** Solutions are devised to specifically address known and anticipated issues.

4) **Attention:** Support must be gathered by educating and motivating a critical mass of people.

5) **Action:** Legislation must be passed to resolve the issue(s).

See an excellent dramatization of the process in the film "Selma".



IS THIS THE IDEAL WAY TO VOTE

Hundreds of Democratic caucus attendees at this location, Centennial Middle School in Boulder, CO, on 3/1/2016 who waited up to 3 hours to register, ended up not being able to vote, disenfranchised in our Presidential non

ELECTION ISSUES

- **Single Member Plurality (SMP) Districts** - leave 30 - 60% of the electorate unrepresented and results in gerrymandered "safe", uncompetitive districts.
- **The Two Party System, primaries and caucuses** - limit the number and variety of candidates and voter choice. Typically 15% or less of the electorate pick candidates in a party primary in a safe district, 87% of districts are "safe". The "Spoiler Effect" discourages voter support for minor party (change) candidates.
- **The Electoral College** - fundamentally undemocratic, rooted in slavery. One person should always equal one vote. Everyone's vote in every state should count and be given equal weight.
- **Big money controlling elections** - Expensive election campaigns, much of it dark money from unknown sources, control outcomes and politicians after the election.
- **Voter Suppression** - undemocratic, discriminatory, designed to diminish minority representation.
- **At Large, Winner Take All systems** - also designed to diminish minority representation.
- **No Real Debate about Priorities and Solutions** - minor parties viewpoints are eliminated.
- **Unaccountable Elected Officials** - Most elected officials are in safe, uncompetitive districts. They have little competition, don't need to be accountable or defend how they vote.
- **Direct Democracy is under attack** - In Colorado, Proposition 71, financed by the oil and gas industry, made citizens initiations much more difficult and expensive.
- **Low Voter Turnout** - the American public is increasingly disengaged. Due to low turnout and the Electoral College, <26% of eligible voters elected Donald Trump. The USA's voter turnout is lowest among Western democracies.

HISTORICAL ROOTS

SOMERSET V. STEWART (1772)

In 1772, the "Somerset v. Stewart" King's Bench decision peacefully abolished slavery in England and Wales, 4 years before the US Declaration of Independence. Judge Mansfield found no basis in British Common Law for one person to own another. Somerset v. Stewart was well publicized in the North American colonies. Slaves started suing in Colonial courts and winning their freedom in 1773 (reversed by British appointed Governors). Within 4 years, the wealthiest slavers in Virginia, rich guys with the most to lose by the abolition of slavery, led a revolt against the British. Read "Slave Nation" by Alfred & Ruth Blumrosen for more details. Wikipedia link.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (1787)

Slavers had the voting majority at the Constitutional Convention (CC) and got everything they wanted. Under the guise of "Liberty and Freedom" - for themselves, Virginia slavers designed our government to facilitate their continued, disproportionate accumulation of wealth and power. Slavers property rights of owning slaves trumped the human rights of the slaves. Property rights have superseded human rights ever since. Unlike England, 18% of the population were stripped of all their human rights and slavery was institutionalized into our laws.

Slavers devised the electoral system as the glue to hold their arrangement in place, to keep themselves in power in perpetuity. **Article I, Section 2-3 and Article II, Section 1-3 skewed elections to favor slave states.** Article IV, Section 2 gave slavers the authority to hunt down runaway slaves in non-slave states. Article V gave slavers/slave states veto power over any changes to the Constitution, protecting slavery.

At the CC, slavers limited who was in the voter pool, how they voted, who they voted for and how votes were counted, reliably predetermining election results. Only property owning, white males over 25 could vote, resulting in 94% voter suppression - taxation without representation. Following the CC, 4 of the first 5 Presidents spanning 32 of 36 years, were Virginia slavers. 10 of the first 12 Presidents were slavers. Slavers stacked the Supreme Court with more slavers.

It took a Civil War and 625,000 deaths to abolish slavery, but the government and electoral system slavers designed are still intact. Voter suppression, the Electoral College, Winner Take All and gerrymandering from over two centuries ago are still with us.

The Senate and Electoral College skew elections to favor rural agricultural states, which then and now are more conservative. As slavers/elites did in 1787, social conservatives and financial elites today care less about fair, democratic elections than maintaining their grip on power. They write the rules/laws to facilitate their disproportionate accumulation of wealth, override the majority on women's right to choose, fail to keep guns away from crazy people, fracking next to kids schools and addressing a living wage. The concentration of wealth and power by a small percentage of the population and Property Rights trumping Human Rights are not accidents. They are leftover, designed results from slavery to benefit slavers/elites.

Currently only two viewpoints allegedly represent everyone. Over 87% of Congressional House seats are uncompetitive "safe" seats. Incumbents win 98% of their elections. Let's recognize and acknowledge election systems and methods issues, understand they weren't designed for our benefit, stop repeating the same mistakes, and fix the underlying issues.

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- Government r how voters vo
- Accountable p