

Resources for Political and Election Reform

We all know that our political system unduly favors the wealthy and powerful in both the electoral and policy-making processes. The average American has practically no voice in national governance, and a less than equal voice in state and local governance.

How can we balance the playing field? There are many areas of our democratic process that require examination and demand reform, if not transformation.

These include, but are not limited to:

1. Campaign finance/ Money in politics
2. Voting rights
3. Lobbying
4. Representation/Redistricting
5. Role of political parties
6. Corrupt activities

We will examine how these areas are undemocratic, how others have addressed these issues, and what we might do to fix them. Here are a few preliminary resources:

1. Campaign finance resources
 - a. Reform Money in Politics, Brennan Center for Justice
(<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/reform-money-politics>)
 - b. ACLU, Campaign Finance Reform
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/campaign-finance-reform>
2. Voting Rights
 - a. Reforming American Democracy in Pursuit of Racial Equity
(<https://www.newamerica.org/political-reform/blog/reforming-american-democracy-pursuit-racial-equity/#:~:text=Reforms%20intended%20to%20moderate%20the%20influence%20of%20economic,corruption%20%28a%20worthy%20goal%29%20or%20ensuring%20%E2%80%9Cclean%E2%80%9D%20elections.>)

- b. Voting Reform, Brennan Center for Justice
(<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/voting-reform>)
 - c. ACLU, <https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights>
3. Lobbying
- a. Vermont lobbying and ethics reform proposal
(<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/holcombe-proposes-vermont-lobbying-and-ethics-reform/ar-BB16yail>)
 - b. Public Citizen (<https://www.citizen.org/article/lobbying-reform/>)
4. Representation/Redistricting
- a. Fair Vote (<https://www.fairvote.org/fair-representation#what-is-fair-voting>)
 - b. Represent Women
(<https://www.representwomen.org/fair-rep-act#why-we-need-the-fair-representation-act>)
5. Role of Political Parties
- a. Punch, Reforming Our Dysfunctional Political Parties
(<https://punchng.com/reforming-our-dysfunctional-political-parties/>)
 - b. Reforming American Political Parties Poll
(<https://www.flsouthern.edu/FSC/media/other/cppr/polls/FSC-2017-Reforming-Parties-Polling-Report.pdf>)
6. Corrupt Activities
- a. Represent.Us/RepresentUs New Mexico
<https://represent.us/anticorruption-act/>
 - b. Political.com <https://political.com/10-most-corrupt-places-in-america/>