



# FAIR VOTE'S 2020 REFORM VISION

## OUR DEMOCRACY IS IN CRISIS.

Respect for our democratic institutions has plummeted to an all-time low. Winner-take-all elections and restrictive primaries limit our ballot choices and channel Americans' diversity of views into two fiercely partisan camps that rarely cooperate on policy. Incumbents undercut the right to vote by treating voting laws as mere tools for political advantage. Presidential campaigns ignore most Americans, and the link between receiving a majority of votes and winning a majority of seats in congressional elections is broken.

These problems extend to all of our elections. Most states suffer from entrenched single-party domination, and more than a third of state legislative races are not even contested. Gubernatorial election turnout hovers near forty percent, and most city elections have even lower turnout. At all levels of elected office, women and racial minorities are underrepresented, and third parties and their ideas are shut out, even as the number of independent voters rises.

FairVote goes to the root causes of America's electoral dysfunction with a reform agenda grounded in the principle of respect for every vote and every voice. Through research, analysis, and coalition-building, we are on our way to achieving the following goals.



## FAIR REPRESENTATION VOTING FOR CONGRESS AND LEGISLATURES

**2020 GOAL: By 2020, Congress will end gerrymandering by passing a law requiring states to form independent redistricting commissions that draw fair representation voting plans. More states and cities will adopt fair voting for legislative elections.**

To vote without hope of earning representation is not real democracy. Americans should be able to elect preferred candidates, and our legislatures should reflect the people they represent. Winning the most votes should always earn the most seats.

Winner-take-all elections produce unrepresentative legislatures, uncompetitive elections, and unaccountable incumbents. The only way to truly fix Congress is to enact fair representation voting plans based on the principle of proportional representation, using candidate-based systems that are consistent with our history and Constitution. Our growing reform coalition includes women, racial minorities, supporters of independents and third parties, and major party backers who seek more responsive legislatures and the ability to win seats everywhere.

Nearly 100 local governments are elected with fair representation voting systems today. FairVote is building support for a federal law to require the use of independent redistricting commissions that draw multimember district plans designed for fair voting. We will also help win fair voting in state legislative elections and expand its use to resolve voting rights cases. Our Representation 2020 campaign will ensure that fair voting results in more equitable representation of women.



## NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

**2020 GOAL:** In 2020, the National Popular Vote plan will guarantee the White House to the winner of the national popular vote in all 50 states.

Our electoral rules should ensure that every vote matters in every election. But our Electoral College rules make most voters irrelevant to campaigns that devote 99% of general election resources to just a dozen swing states. The National Popular Vote agreement is now law in states that represent more than half of the 270 electoral votes necessary to activate it for the next election. The National Popular Vote law will make every vote equal and guarantee the White House to the candidate who wins the most votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Working closely with the National Popular Vote coalition, FairVote is the nation's leading source of innovative research and writing on the case for Electoral College reform.



## RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR GOVERNORS AND MAYORS

**2020 GOAL:** By 2020, at least 10 states will adopt ranked choice voting for the election of governors and dozens of cities will elect mayors with ranked choice voting.

We want more ballot choices, not fewer. We should elect our executive leaders by majority rule, but having more than two choices can split the majority vote. The best means to accommodate more voter choice is ranked choice voting (RCV). Proven in thousands of major elections, RCV upholds majority rule and encourages candidates to reach out to more voters. FairVote has helped pass RCV in 15 cities and partners with local reformers to remove administrative barriers, create resources for implementation, and build support for winning RCV for statewide elections.



## CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE

**2020 GOAL:** By 2020, a majority in Congress will support an explicit right to vote in the Constitution, and more than 2,000 localities, 250 campuses, and 20 states will pass resolutions to protect, promote, and expand suffrage.

Recent battles over voting rights underscore the need for both an explicit right to vote in the U.S. Constitution and widespread commitment to put the rights of voters ahead of partisan calculations. Inspired by initial wins in 2013 and supported by our Promote Our Vote project, thousands of cities, campuses, and organizations will pass resolutions calling for an explicit constitutional right to vote and committing to concrete actions to protect, promote, and expand suffrage. We will build support for a right to vote amendment, engage in effective communication, and act as a clearinghouse for local action on suffrage.



## VISIT REFORM2020.COM TO GET INVOLVED

*FairVote educates and empowers Americans to remove the structural barriers to achieving a representative democracy that respects every vote and every voice in every election. As a thought leader and catalyst for change, we pursue innovative research, analysis, and communications to turn new ideas into widely accepted policy. We are nonpartisan and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

