

Elections, Opinions, and Voting

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Intro

In order for our power structure in the US to thrive and maintain itself it must have a president and multiple representatives for national and state power to control and regulate the country. These representatives are chosen through the process of elections that are determined by the US citizen voters that reflect the country's best interests. There are different political parties ranging from the left and right that contribute to the system by dividing political interests based on the citizen's opinion and ideals. Democrats and Republicans are the two main parties in the US that reflect the direction our country goes in economically, politically, and diplomatically. Although third parties exist, and are separate from the democratic and republican platform, they are not highly dominant in the political voting system.

Current Findings I+II

- Presidential elections in the US are determined by the electoral college system. The electoral college system is when there are a group of people representing a specific state who will then choose which candidate to vote for, based on how many voters vote for that representative. In order for a candidate to win the presidency they must have 270 electoral votes from the states that they won.
- US and congressional elections are determined by Single Member Plurality rule which basically means that the candidate who wins receives the most votes of any other candidates. In that sense a person who only has 45% of the vote can win although he does not have the majority vote as long as the other parties don't have more than him, that includes independent platforms as well.

What I find Interesting

- The election system and the process of voting in the US whether it's for presidential or congressional candidates interests me because it is the most basic form of democracy that is prevalent in one of the most powerful countries in the world. Without votes our democratic society won't contain any representation from it's people and power may not be distributed among the country's best interest.
- The elections combined with the passionate voices and opinions concerning American individualistic political ideologies excites me and can help determine people's values among the political spectrum. Especially in 2018, the partisan divide is more abundant than ever and voters are especially contingent on which people they want to vote for and hold them accountable when they are selected. This healthy competition between the two political parties maintains accountability for those in power.

My Research and Why it Interests Me

- My research consists of three people who will answer whether or not our voting system should be put online and available for perfectly eligible registered voters to make the process easier.
- This particular idea interests me because as a young individual who's never voted simply out of laziness and knowing that my state votes mostly Blue, I wanted to garner the ideas of other people on a convenient voting method.

What I Plan on Doing in the Future

In the future I plan on finally registering to vote and staying well informed on who will be representing me so I can perform my civic duty. I will also inform other people on the necessary resources and information that will help them do the same.

Research Opinions

- 1) Father 60: NO- If he were to vote online he would feel like his vote didn't actually go through without the physical presence of being there and participating. He was also afraid that the system could be prone to hacking and still have some type of voter suppression.
- 2) Mother 48: YES- She would like to eliminate the need of showing up physically and believes convenience will get a larger majority of people to participate.
- 3) Mark 18: YES- He would enjoy the convenience and being part of a new shift in American democracy, he also believes many more would vote.

Differences and Similarities of Research

- I didn't see any pressing differences or similarities to draw a conclusion since I only interviewed three people. However, if we were to make an analysis I would say that millennials would be more in favor for online voting while older people who have participated in the system and are well into it wouldn't mind going to a polling station to cast their vote as the traditional way of doing things.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ people I interviewed were in favor for it. So the assumption can be made that most Americans would be too.

What I learned

- The process of electing officials to put into power and represent our country can be dramatic and exciting in terms of its competitive nature. The election system in the US combined with laws and regulation that protect the American people's right to vote with freedom of speech, enacts a wide spectrum political environment. Corruption and scandals among leaders can shift the rules that the US has implemented to create a fair voting system but it is important that Americans perform their civic duty and vote with informed minds to make that type of political power accountable for their actions.

Conclusion

- Differences of opinion and political ideals mold the environment of the twoparty political system and can sway state votes. There are common criticisms with the voting system and political party system that refute the idea of a fair and democratic society, but laws that were implemented over time uphold our current American system of democracy.

CITATIONS:

Grigsby, Ellen. *Analyzing Politics* . 4th ed., Wadsworth, 2008.

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The elections combined with the passionate voices and opinions concerning American individualistic political ideologies excites me and can help determine people's values among the political spectrum. Especially in 2018, the partisan divide is more abundant than ever and voters are especially contingent on which people they want to vote for and hold them accountable when they are selected. This healthy competition between the two political parties maintains accountability for those in power.

My research consists of three people who will answer whether or not our voting system should be put online and available for perfectly eligible registered voters to make the process easier. This particular idea interests me because as a young individual who's never voted simply out of laziness and knowing that my state votes mostly Blue, I wanted to garner the ideas of other people on a convenient voting method. In the future I plan on finally registering to vote and staying well informed on who will be representing me so I can perform my civic duty. I will also inform other people on the necessary resources and information that will help them do the same.

My father who is 60 answered, NO. If he were to vote online he would feel like his vote didn't actually go through without the physical presence of being there and participating. He was also afraid that the system could be prone to hacking and still have some type of voter suppression. My mother, who is 40 answered YES, and said she would like to eliminate the need of showing up physically and believes convenience will get a larger majority of people to participate. My friend Mark who is 18 said YES, because he would enjoy the convenience and being part of a new shift in American democracy. He also believes many more would vote.

I didn't see any pressing differences or similarities to draw a conclusion since I only interviewed three people. However, if were to make an analysis I would say that millenials would be more in favor for online voting while older people who have participated in the system and are well into it wouldn't mind going to a polling station to cast their vote as the traditional way of doing things. $\frac{2}{3}$ people I interviewed were in favor for it. So the assumption can be made that most Americans would be too.

The process of electing officials to put into power and represent our country can be dramatic and exciting in terms of its competitive nature. The election system in the US combined with laws and regulation that protect the American people's right to vote with freedom of speech, enacts a wide-spectrum political environment. Corruption and scandals among leaders can shift the rules that the US has implemented to create a fair voting system but it is important that Americans perform their civic duty and vote with informed minds to make that type of political power accountable for their actions.

Differences of opinion and political ideals mold the environment of the two-party political system and can sway state votes.

There are common criticisms with the voting system and political party system that refute the idea of a fair and democratic society, but laws that were implemented over time uphold our current American system of democracy.