

FALL 2019 ADVANCED DIVISION CORE FILES (AFFIRMATIVE)

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First Affirmative Speech (1AC)

Note: you have **4 minutes** for the constructive speeches (including the First Affirmative Constructive, aka “1AC”) – you should practice reading it in time. If you can’t read it all, try **underlining or highlighting** the most **important parts of the evidence** – and re-reading the speech without the unimportant parts to save time.

Also try circling our **highlighting** words and phrases where you might add **emphasis** – you will give this speech a lot, and you should get good at making it sound exciting / like you care about the issue. If you want to get good speaker points from your judge, make the speech interesting!

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Contention 1: Inherency

Many states that previously adopted early voting now are reducing early voting opportunities while also making registration more difficult. Ohio demonstrates this trend.

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, "Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world's most powerful democracy." Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

Some states have alleviated the issue by allowing early voting. But since 2010, seven states have scaled back early voting periods, according to the Brennan Center. In 2011, Ohio Republican lawmakers eliminated the so-called golden week—which allowed voters to register and vote on the same day for a six-day period. More than 80,000 people voted during the golden week in 2012.

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Contention 2 – Democracy Advantage

Multiple studies show that states that have had cuts to early voting had lower voter turnout and participation in elections

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

It is also worth noting that cuts to early voting can have a detrimental impact on voter participation. A 2016 study by The Atlantic found that, in North Carolina counties with polling place closures and reductions in voting hours, during the first week of early voting, black voter participation reached only 60 percent of the cumulative participation at the same point in 2012. And while participation increased some in the weeks leading up to the election, black participation never reached more than 90 percent of the cumulative participation in 2012.¹³⁴ At the same time, in 2012, after the Florida Legislature cut the state’s early voting period from 14 days to 8 days and eliminated voting on the last Sunday before Election Day, early voting participation for African Americans dropped by 4.1 percent relative to 2008, while participation for Latinos dropped by 4.6 percent.¹³⁵

And, obstacles to voting and low turnout rates are the real problem in US democracy

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, “Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world’s most powerful democracy.” Foreign Policy November 5 2018
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

“If we are really going to address problems of voting, we would really try to expand participation by making it easier to vote and increasing our turnout,” said the ACLU’s Ebenstein. “But a lot of states are looking to do the opposite, to narrow and restrict the electorate. The real problem with our democracy is turnout.”

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Additionally, these anti-voter policies specifically have impacted people of color – and only adopting pro-voter reforms can reverse this trend.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Beyond this, studies have found that a negative relationship exists between voter disenfranchisement and black participation, even among those not directly involved in the criminal justice system. For example, in communities with high percentages of disenfranchised black voters, eligible black voters are less likely to vote.²⁰⁰ This negative relationship exists even when there are pro-voter reforms such as early voting and same-day registration.

For the US’s democracy to work correctly, all eligible Americans must have a chance to vote.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Almost 92 million eligible Americans did not vote in the 2016 presidential elections.¹ In the 2014 midterm elections, an estimated 143 million eligible Americans failed to vote, marking the lowest voter participation in 72 years.² For the nation’s democracy to function properly and for government to provide fair representation, all eligible Americans must have the opportunity to vote—and be encouraged to do so. Our collective self-rule is established and fostered through free, fair, accessible, and secure elections through which the voice of every eligible American is heard.

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Thus, we offer the following plan:

The United States should adopt same day registration and expand early voting across the country.

Contention 3 – Solvency:

Early voting and easier registration in combination will allow both programs to reinforce the other for better voter turnout.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

These pro-voter policies are mutually dependent and reinforcing. For example, the effectiveness of more convenient voting options—including early voting, vote-at-home, and no-excuse absentee voting—depends on eligible voters being registered. As aptly described in a report by the director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin, Barry C. Burden, and others, “The additional convenience of early voting is worthless to a potential voter who finds that she is actually not registered, and therefore unqualified to vote.”²³ At the same time, the benefits of registration modernization cannot be fully realized if voters do not have opportunities to exercise their civic duty. Moreover, these policies often complement each other. Whereas early voting on its own has been shown to increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent, early voting combined with same-day voter registration has increased voter participation by 4.2 to 11 percent where it has been implemented.²⁴

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Registering more people would increase voter turnout significantly.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Simply registering more people to vote would increase participation, as registered individuals are more likely to cast a ballot in elections. For example, in 2016, 61 percent of U.S. citizens reported voting, compared with 87 percent of people registered to vote.

And, improving voter registration rates closes the gaps in voter participation amongst white and minority voters.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Improving the voter registration process can decrease gaps in voter participation between demographic groups. For example, in 2016, white voting-age citizens participated at a 63 percent rate, while voting-age citizens of color participated at a 53 percent rate.⁵⁹ However, the participation gap decreases significantly between registered whites and registered people of color: 87.78 percent versus 84.91 percent, respectively. Therefore, while the participation gap between eligible white citizens and eligible citizens of color is 10 percentage points, among registered citizens, the gap is only 2.87 percentage points.⁶⁰

Supporting Evidence & answers to negative arguments

Please note: the following pages **may** be useful for affirmative speeches after the *First Affirmative Constructive*.

This evidence is provided to help you challenge the negative's arguments, mainly in the Second Affirmative Constructive speech. Only **some** of this evidence will need to be read in your debate, depending on what arguments your opponent makes.

We **discourage** you from reading evidence in the final Rebuttal speeches (1AR, 2NR, 2AR). This is **not** a rule – you can do it if you like – but your rebuttals will be better and score you more speaker points if you use your speech time to analyze and compare your arguments to the ones your opponent has made – rather than just reading more of the following pages. Most judges want to watch you engage your opponent's arguments directly, rather than watching you read page after page of evidence every speech.

One more piece of advice: you should actively **listen** to your opponents' speeches, and track the specific arguments they are making by taking notes ("flowing" the debate). In your rebuttals, aim to make reference to their arguments and respond to them directly as time allows – don't rely entirely on pre-written speeches that aren't unique to the situation of your debate round.

Early voting currently restricted

Multiple states increasing requirements for voting or shrinking early voting time frames

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, "Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world's most powerful democracy." Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

Since 2010, 22 states have passed laws requiring photo IDs or curtailing early voting, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonprofit public policy institute at New York University Law School that promotes democracy and justice. (Some of the most controversial laws have been challenged in lawsuits or struck down by courts.)

Cost of compiling with restrictions results in fewer polling locations – North Carolina proves

Paterson, 2018

(Blake "Bipartisan Furor as North Carolina Election Law Shrinks Early Voting Locations by Almost 20 Percent". ProPublica Sept. 24, 2018

<https://www.propublica.org/article/bipartisan-furor-as-north-carolina-election-law-shrinks-early-voting-locations-by-almost-20-percent> accessed DUDA -TM)

A ProPublica analysis of polling locations shows that North Carolina's 2018 midterm election will have nearly 20 percent fewer early voting locations than there were in 2014. Nearly half of North Carolina's 100 counties are shutting down polling places, in part because of the new law. Poorer rural counties, often strapped for resources to begin with, are having a particularly difficult time adjusting to the new requirement.

US has low rates of voting

Multiple obstacles to voter turnout in the United States – means our turnout rates are at the bottom of developed world.

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, “Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world’s most powerful democracy.” Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

Americans like to think of their political system as the gold standard of democratic governance. But a complicated registration process, the failure to make Election Day a national holiday, and political measures aimed at suppressing turnout—especially among African-Americans and other minorities—have combined to give the United States one of the lower voter participation rates in the developed world.

Low turnout rates in comparison to other countries.

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, “Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world’s most powerful democracy.” Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

In the 2016 presidential election, only 56 percent of the U.S. voting-age population cast ballots, a slight increase over 2012. In contrast, 87 percent of voting-age Belgians, 83 percent of Swedes, and 80 percent of Danes voted in their most recent national elections, according to a May study by the Pew Research Center.

Lack of voting locations harms voter participation

Number of polling locations influences how far a polling place is – that directly influences early voting turnout.

Paterson, 2018

(Blake “Bipartisan Furor as North Carolina Election Law Shrinks Early Voting Locations by Almost 20 Percent”. Propublica Sept. 24, 2018

<https://www.propublica.org/article/bipartisan-furor-as-north-carolina-election-law-shrinks-early-voting-locations-by-almost-20-percent> accessed DUDA -TM)

But according to Robert Stein, a professor of political science at Rice University, aggregate hours are not nearly as important a factor to voter access as the number of early voting locations offered by a county. “There is a lot of good research to suggest that when it comes to having a positive effect on early voting turnout, the important things are not the hours of operation but the location of the polling place and the distance and travel time it takes a voter to get there,” Stein said.

Turnout particularly bad in Texas

Low turnout rates in Texas specifically – ranks near the bottom of the states.

Young, writer for Dallas Observer, **2019**

(Stephen, "Voting in Texas Still Broken, New Report Says". Dallas Observer, MARCH 21, 2019 <https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/how-to-fix-texas-voter-turnout-11613360> accessed DUDA-TM)

Not so much, according to a report released this week from Nonprofit VOTE and the U.S. Elections Project. Despite 3.6 million more people casting ballots in 2018 than 2014, an increase that raised turnout from just more than 28 percent to more than 46 percent, Texas remained in the bottom fifth of states ranked by turnout percentage, according to the study, finishing 41st.

Lack of registration harms voter participation

Low registration rates undermine voter turnout.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

One of the most effective ways to improve voter participation is to increase the number of people who are registered to vote by making the process more convenient. Every state except North Dakota requires that people register to vote before casting their ballot.⁴⁴ Yet there are still millions of Americans who are unregistered; according to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2016, approximately 1 in 7 American citizens who were of voting age self-reported that they were not registered to vote.⁴⁵ In 2012, Pew estimated that nearly 1 in 4 eligible Americans were unregistered.⁴⁶

Lack of registration excludes poor and racial minorities

Communities of color, poor and disabled population disproportionately less likely to be registered to vote.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Certain groups are less likely to be registered to vote; these include communities of color, low-income Americans, those with disabilities, and young people.⁵⁰ In 2016, 69 percent of black and 57 percent of Hispanic Americans were registered to vote, compared with 72 percent of whites.⁵¹ Asian Americans were 16 percent less likely to be registered to vote than whites.⁵² Furthermore, in 2012, only 66 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives were registered—7 percentage points lower than their white counterparts.⁵³ A shocking 20-point gap exists in registration rates between Americans making less than \$25,000 per year and individuals making \$100,000 or more per year.⁵⁴ Eligible Americans with disabilities are also less likely to be registered to vote—by about 2 percentage points—than people without disabilities.⁵⁵ And in 2012, 735,000 potential voters were prevented from having their names added to the voter rolls because of language barriers in the registration process.⁵⁶

Increased voter participation essential to democracy

Early voting and mobilization will increase turnout and turnout matters in very close elections in the United States

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, early voting is permitted in 33 states and the District of Columbia, though early voting opportunities vary in terms of timing and location.¹³⁶ And, although more research is needed on its overall effectiveness at increasing participation, early voting could prove powerful when combined with active mobilization efforts. Even if the policy’s impact on participation is relatively small, during a time when margins of victory are so close that elections are decided by lot, every vote counts.¹³⁷

Democracy good – economy, public health

Democracy is good because provides multiple benefits including stronger economy and better health outcomes for people living in democracies

Rice-Oxley, writer for the Guardian Newspaper, 2019

(Mark “Democracy is good for your health and heart, major study find”. The Guardian. March 13 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/13/democracy-is-good-for-your-health-and-heart-major-study-finds> DUDA TM)

Democracy is good for your heart, health and longevity, a major study of 170 countries has concluded, in a boost to a form of government that has faced significant setbacks around the world in recent years. Life expectancy improved more quickly in countries that switched to democracy over the past 50 years, the researchers discovered, and there were fewer deaths from cardiovascular disease, diseases such as cancer and cirrhosis, and even road traffic accidents. The study, published in the Lancet, said it was not just that democracies tended to be richer: the “democracy effect” was far stronger than any GDP effect. “Free and fair elections appear important for improving adult health ... most likely by increasing government accountability and responsiveness,” the study said. “Democracies are more likely than autocracies to lead to health gains.”

Democracy good – prevents political violence

Democracy provides nonviolent ways to express opinions – and elect a new leaders if they make a bad choice

Inglehart, professor of political science University of Michigan, **2018**

(Ronald “The age of insecurity: Can democracy save itself” Foreign Affairs, 97(3), May June 2018 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/age-insecurity> accessed DUDA-TM)

Moreover, democracy has a major advantage over other political systems: it provides a nonviolent way to replace a country's leaders. Democratic institutions do not guarantee that the people will elect wise and benevolent rulers, but they do provide a regular and nonviolent way to replace unwise and malevolent ones. Nondemocratic leadership successions can be costly and bloody. And since democracy enables people to choose their leaders, it reduces the need for repressive rule. Both these advantages have helped democracy survive and spread.

US democracy encourages freedom in other countries

US must lead on democracy to signal to other countries that democracy is better than authoritarian governments

Freedom House, respected international organization that rates democracies, **2019**

(“Freedom in the World: 2019”, published 2019

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/Feb2019_FH_FITW_2019_Report_ForWeb-compressed.pdf accessed DUDA-TM)

There should be no illusions about what the deterioration of established democracies could mean for the cause of freedom globally. Neither America nor its most powerful allies have ever been perfect models—the United States ranks behind 51 of the 87 Free countries in Freedom in the World—and their commitment to democratic governance overseas has always competed with other priorities. But the post-Soviet wave of democratization did produce lasting gains and came in no small part because of support and encouragement from the United States and other leading democratic nations. Despite the regression in many newly democratized countries described above, two-thirds of the countries whose freedom status improved between 1988 and 2005 have maintained their new status to date.

That major democracies are now flagging in their efforts, or even working in the opposite direction, is cause for real alarm. The truth is that democracy needs defending, and as traditional champions like the United States stumble, core democratic norms meant to ensure peace, prosperity, and freedom for all people are under serious threat around the world.

Plan solves – early voting increases turnout

If all states had early voting, studies modeled an increase of nearly a million voters in the 2016 elections

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Early voting: One study found that early voting can increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent.¹⁶ Eliminating early voting has also been found to decrease turnout in communities of color.¹⁷ According to the authors’ calculations, if all states had early voting in place during the 2016 elections, there could have been at least 789,500 more voters.

Early voting adds flexibility and opportunities to vote

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Early voting aims to make voting more convenient for eligible voters by providing them with greater flexibility and opportunities to cast ballots. If implemented correctly and with sufficient resources, early voting has the potential to facilitate shorter lines on Election Day—particularly among communities of color—and to improve the voter experience.¹²⁷ At least 42 million people voted early in the 2016 elections.¹²⁸ Early voting that takes places on Sundays and “Souls to the Polls” events is particularly popular among communities of color.¹²⁹ In 2016, at least 52,000 voters took advantage of Georgia’s Sunday voting hours.¹³⁰

Plan solves – simplifying registration increases turnout

Combining early voting and easier registration could increase voter turnout

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Although some research suggests that, by simply making the task more convenient, early voting mostly benefits people who would already vote, one study found that early voting can increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent.¹³¹ When combined with SDR [Same Day Registration] and Election Day registration, early voting can increase voter participation by 4.2 to 11 percent.¹³² In a 2018 survey of more than 900 voters in New York, 79 percent of respondents said that they would be more likely to vote if the state offered early voting.¹³³

Plan solves – simplifying registration increases turnout

Same day registration, during early voting or on Election Day, boosts voter turnout

Brennan Center, 2018

(“Related Advancements in Voter Registration”. Brennan Center for Justice, July 24, 2018 <https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/related-advancements-voter-registration>)

Election Day registration enables individuals to register to vote or update their registration on Election Day, either at the polls or at another location designated by election officials. This reform helps boost turnout by ensuring that all eligible voters are able to cast ballots, and it is no surprise that all six states with the highest turnout in 2016 had implemented the policy. Sixteen states plus DC currently or will soon offer Election Day registration. In addition, Maryland and North Carolina allow voters to register or update their existing registration during the early voting period, but not on Election Day.

Same day registration would improve rates – studies support the relationship between same day registration and turnout

Young, writer for Dallas Observer, 2019

(Stephen, “Voting in Texas Still Broken, New Report Says”. Dallas Observer, MARCH 21, 2019 <https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/how-to-fix-texas-voter-turnout-11613360> accessed DUDA-TM)

According to the researchers behind the new report, the state's continued lack of participation likely stems from its failure to enact policies that make it easier for people to vote.

In order to truly change the state's fortunes, the report suggests, it needs to do one big thing and a couple of smaller things. First, Texas must allow same-day voter registration. Every state ranked 35th or lower in the new report does not have same-day registration. In Texas, prospective voters have to register a full month before the first election in which they'd like to cast a ballot, in addition to having an appropriate photo ID.

“If I could implement only one election reform to increase voter participation, it would be same-day registration,” Michael McDonald, associate professor of political science at the University of Florida, said in announcing the results of the new report. “Year after year, states with same-day registration have a turnout advantage over states without the policy, including a 7-point advantage in the 2018 elections.”

Answer to: “Voting restrictions don’t exclude minorities”

The changes occur in a context of larger racial bias making the effect of the changes much larger on people of color

Newkirk, writer for the Atlantic Magazine, **2018**

(Vann, “Voter Suppression Is Warping Democracy” The Atlantic, JUL 17, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/07/poll-prri-voter-suppression/565355/> accessed DUDA-TM)

These results add credence to what many critics of restrictive voting laws have long suspected. First, voter-ID laws and other, similar statutes aren’t passed in a vacuum, but rather in a country where people of color are significantly less likely to be able to meet the new requirements. Whether intended to discriminate or not, these laws discriminate in effect, and while there is no evidence that they’ve averted any kind of fraud, there is plenty of data detailing just how they’ve created Republican advantages. In that way, Trump’s chances in 2016 may have turned not only on the approval or disapproval of white voters, but also on how effectively state laws, access issues, and social penalties conspired to keep black and Hispanic voters away from polling places.

Answer to: “Voter suppression isn’t a big problem”

While there may be some debate about how much voter suppression there is, there is no question it impacts minority voters more than white voters

Newkirk, writer for the Atlantic Magazine, **2018**

(Vann, “Voter Suppression Is Warping Democracy” The Atlantic, JUL 17, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/07/poll-prri-voter-suppression/565355/> accessed DUDA-TM)

The real extent of voter suppression in the United States is contested. As was the case for poll taxes and literacy tests long ago, restrictive election laws are often, on their face, racially neutral, giving them a sheen of legitimacy. But the new data from PRRI and The Atlantic suggest that the outcomes of these laws are in no way racially neutral. The poll, conducted in June, surveyed Americans about their experiences with voting, their assessments of the country’s political system, and their interfaces with civics. The results, especially when analyzed by race, are troublesome. They indicate that voter suppression is commonplace, and that voting is routinely harder for people of color than for their white counterparts.

Answer to: “Plan doesn’t outline details to expand voting”

Recommendations for expanding early voting focus on the dates and time and locations of the polling places.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

In implementing this policy, states should ensure that there is an adequate number of early voting locations conveniently located near public transportation. Early voting should be available on Saturdays and Sundays and should begin at least 14 days prior to Election Day, as research suggests that early voting is most commonly utilized by infrequent voters and nearer to an election.¹³⁸ Furthermore, states that already have early voting should not reduce or eliminate the policy since reductions of early voting have been shown to decrease participation in communities of color. When adopting early voting, states should avoid reducing the number of Election Day polling places, as doing so may result in long lines and may nullify some of early voting’s benefits.¹³⁹ Relatedly, states must ensure sufficient polling place hours in order to allow people opportunities to vote.¹⁴⁰ Today, most states require voting locations to be open for at least 12 hours. However, hours of operation vary significantly depending on the jurisdiction. Limited polling place hours can be problematic for voters whose workdays begin especially early and end late in the evening and for those who are unable to take time away from work.

Answer to: “Democracy is stable / won’t go away”

Democracy not inevitable – a slide to authoritarianism is possible

Inglehart, professor of political science University of Michigan, **2018**

(Ronald “The age of insecurity: Can democracy save itself” Foreign Affairs, 97(3), May June 2018 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/age-insecurity> accessed DUDA-TM)

But there is nothing inevitable about democratic decline. Rising prosperity continues to move most developing countries toward democracy-although, as always, the trajectory is not a linear one. And in the developed world, the current wave of authoritarianism will persist only if societies and governments fail to address the underlying drivers.

If new political coalitions emerge to reverse the trend toward inequality and ensure that the benefits of automation are widely shared, they can put democracy back on track. But if the developed world continues on its current course, democracy could wither away. If there is nothing inevitable about democratic decline, there is also nothing inevitable about democratic resurgence.

Answer to: “Democracy doesn’t improve public health”

Methods used in a comprehensive study shows significant relationship between democracy and life expectancy

Rice-Oxley, writer for the Guardian Newspaper, **2019**

(Mark “Democracy is good for your health and heart, major study find”. The Guardian. March 13 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/13/democracy-is-good-for-your-health-and-heart-major-study-finds> DUDA TM)

The study concludes that, as far as health is concerned, it is. Thomas Bollyky, the lead author, from the US Council on Foreign Relations, said: “This is good news at a time when the news around democracy has been fairly depressing. Health and elections are inevitably linked.” Researchers used existing measures of democratic experience compiled in the V-Dem database and plotted them against a range of metrics such as government health spending and disease outcomes. They then compared trends in countries that had transitioned from autocracy to democracy since 1970 with 55 states that had not. The impact of HIV was factored out, because the huge amount of foreign aid devoted to the virus would have skewed the findings. The conclusions were stark. Life expectancy at age 15 was 3% higher in countries 10 years after their transition to democracy than in counterparts that had not changed government type. Cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, transport injuries and non-communicable diseases also fell as democracy bedded in.

Answers to Negative's "Election Security Disadvantage"

Lots of security measures already in place

Multiple non-governmental efforts to assist in election security efforts

Sanger, et al, 2019

(David E. “States Rush to Make Voting Systems More Secure as New Threats Emerge” NYTimes July 26, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/26/us/politics/states-voting-systems.html> accessed DUDA-TM)

Figuring out where to start is not hard. There are a flurry of studies and reports, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Harvard’s “Defending Digital Democracy” program that trains campaign workers and state officials, and a new Microsoft program, Election Guard, that the company is providing free to states and election-machine manufacturers so that voters can track their ballots from casting to counting.

Security isn't coordinated going into 2020 – tampering is inevitable

Trump prevents full coordination of security efforts – means that the impact of hacking is inevitable

Sanger, et al, 2019

(David E. “States Rush to Make Voting Systems More Secure as New Threats Emerge” NYTimes July 26, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/26/us/politics/states-voting-systems.html> accessed DUDA-TM)

And despite a flurry of activity across the federal government, coordination is a major challenge — chiefly because President Trump, who has only episodically acknowledged the Russian interference in 2016, reacts badly whenever aides bring up the topic, which he interprets as questioning the legitimacy of his election.

He has never overseen detailed meetings about hardening the American system, and he undermined a White House briefing for reporters about actions it was taking when he joked with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, mockingly warning him not to interfere in elections again. Because the administration eliminated the post of White House cybersecurity coordinator last year, interagency meetings on the issue are often held elsewhere, or are convened by House and Senate oversight committees.

Russia won't manipulate the 2020 election

US creates threats when it comes to Russia – no Russia master plan

Topol, 2019

(Sarah "What Does Putin Really Want?", New York Times Magazine, June 25, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/magazine/russia-united-states-world-politics.html>)

Russia has long been a canvas on which Americans project their thoughts or fears — of the Red menace, and of Putin's quest for world domination. This tradition only accelerated after the 2016 election, when it seemed as if everyone were an expert on Putin's agenda. There wasn't an election he didn't hack, a border he wouldn't violate or an American ally he couldn't manipulate. The very word "Putin" has come to symbolize a coherent, systematic destruction of the post-Cold War international order. But no one I spoke with who had an intimate knowledge of Russia saw that as anything but fiction. Instead, they talked about Russia's strides back onto the world stage as improvised reactions, tactics, gambles that were at times more worrisome than masterful.

States have received the funding they need already

Every state already received funds for election security already – should have fixed the problem

Lynch and Underhill, National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019

(Dylan and Wendy, “Election Security | Cybersecurity: What Legislators (and Others) Need to Know” National Conference of State Legislatures February 4 2019

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-security.aspx> accessed DUDA-TM)

Every state received a base of \$3 million, with the remaining funds distributed based on voting age population. Small states received just the base amount, and the largest state, California, received \$34 million (see this chart for state-by-state details).

Public faith in our election system already low

People's belief in the legitimacy of our elections has been eroded by social media not hacking

Lynch and Underhill, National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019

(Dylan and Wendy, "Election Security | Cybersecurity: What Legislators (and Others) Need to Know" National Conference of State Legislatures February 4 2019

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-security.aspx> accessed DUDA-TM)

If malicious actors want to impact public confidence in the American election system, they don't have to gain access to a voter registration system or manipulate vote tallies. Instead, they can sow confusion and discord with a tweet or social media post, or a full-on influence campaign.