

# A Proposal to Reform US Elections and Representation

## The Campaign Process

**Private campaign financing restricted** to individual citizens only (no organization or non-citizen donations allowed) to a maximum \$100 per year, per candidate or proposition for the purpose of getting to ballot and communicating with the public (TV/radio regulated).

**Primary Elections** will include an IRV vote of the most recent party platforms to determine the top parties, in tier groups of 5, for upcoming Election Debates. Platforms, candidates and parties will have exposure per the following publicly owned election information process. Each voting jurisdiction and/or regional area will provide the following access to party, candidate and proposition communication on equal footing for all platforms, candidates, issues and debates.

**Publicly owned and maintained election websites** will be made available where platforms, speeches, and other information can be presented by the parties, candidates and proposition sponsors on equal footing with one another. All debates will be archived for post-debate, easy online viewing.

**Publicly owned and maintained TV and radio stations** will be created to function solely for the purpose of presenting debates, speeches and commercial spots. Debates will be staged live on well publicized Debate Holidays created specifically for the purpose of securing citizen access and participation. Primary Debates will be presented in tier groups of the top 5 candidates until all have had an opportunity to debate. Election Debates will also include tier groups of the top 5 parties until all have had an opportunity to debate.

## The Election Process

### Instant Runoff Voting.

**Election Days are Holidays** with mandatory closure of all but emergency public services. Ballots are accepted in person or by mail for 30 days prior to election day.

**Ballots are distributed to individual voters by precinct with identifying lottery number.** Absentee ballots will include a carbon copy receipt for the voter to retain. Precinct balloting will include a photocopy receipt for the voter to retain. After the ballot has been counted a copy will be posted on the election website with a database of precinct votes where the lottery number and it's vote results will be recorded and totals for the precinct shown. In this way **a voter can track and verify that their vote** has been counted accurately and is included in precinct totals.

**The accurate counting of votes will take as long as it takes.** Promptness of declaring results is expected. However disputed votes, recounts, and voter validation to confirm results in close elections is to be expected and tolerated. Months may be required and should be the expectation.

## The Representation Process

**Candidates elected represent their platforms**, not themselves nor the people that elected them. This being said the priority of the elected is to the principles and policy objectives documented in their mandatory platform statements. This also allows "elected representatives" to be a team of citizens who cooperatively fulfill the objectives and duties of their office. [This will free up citizens to be true citizen politicians instead of professional "leaders" removed from the reality of life as a common citizen. It also should stimulate an era of direct democracy.]

All elected representatives and elected public officials must hold all **lobbying** or proposed legislation contacts in publicly accessible meeting format. A public calendar of contacts, times and meetings available will posted at least 2 weeks in advance on their public websites.

**All elected representatives and elected public officials must maintain a public website** with their calendars, platform, proposed legislation, and other pertinent information posted to allow and encourage constituent information and participation. On going polling, suggestions and other interactive services should be made available to and from constituents. All voting records with explanation of how their votes and activities reflect their platforms will be made in quarterly statements and a yearly annual report.

**A Bureau of Statistics** will be built for every national, state and regional area operating much like the Census Bureau to cull existing statistical information and make that available to citizens via website. These bureaus will include staff that can take information requests from citizens and generate reports that provide the information or allow the citizen to complete the queries requested. [These Bureau of Statistics will make it possible for citizens to ascertain facts and actively participate in an open, creative democracy functioning through truth rather than the propaganda of powerful wealthy interests.]

All voting within elected government bodies will be done by **simple majority** except for constitutional amendments. All laws not adhering to this standard are repealed.

**All laws will be written in simple language** similar to the Constitution and contain no riders or pork addons. Any legislation requiring complex decision oversight will be overseen by citizen committee created in local community or regional democratic processes that adhere to the principles expressed in the legislation. [This will make for local citizen scrutiny of the application of laws as they affect their communities and keep legalese profiteering to a minimum.]

**No term limits** are needed because platforms have replaced politicians.