



Reform Elections Now

State By State Actions to Reform our Political System:
Arizona, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Virginia

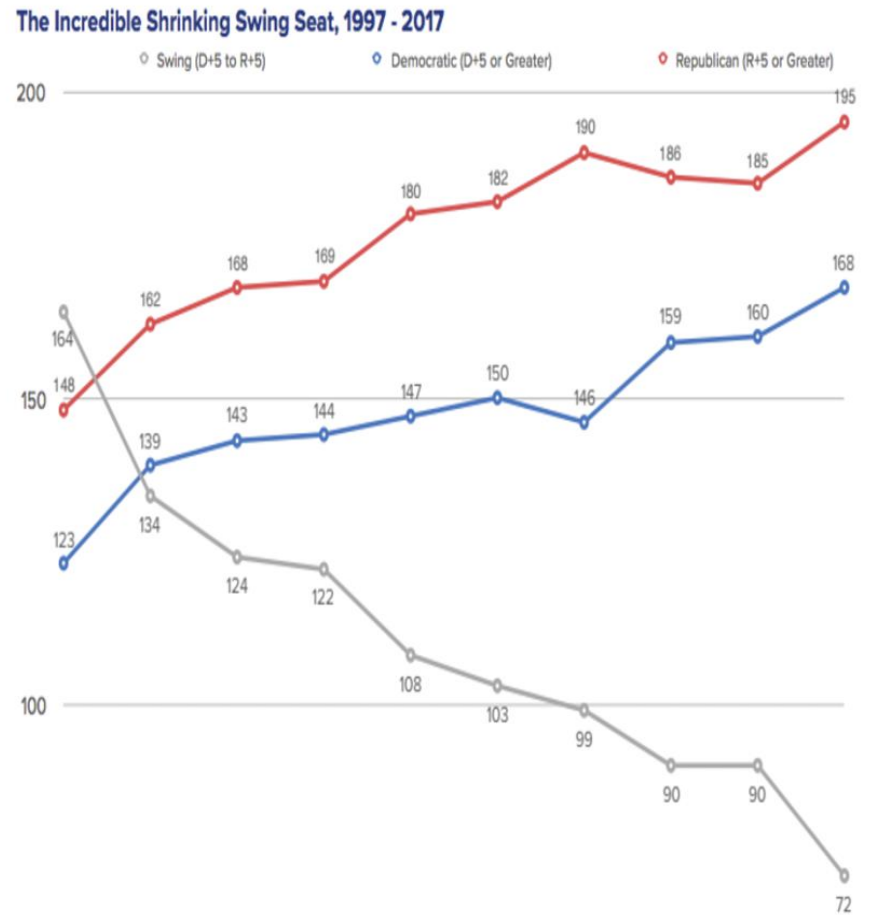
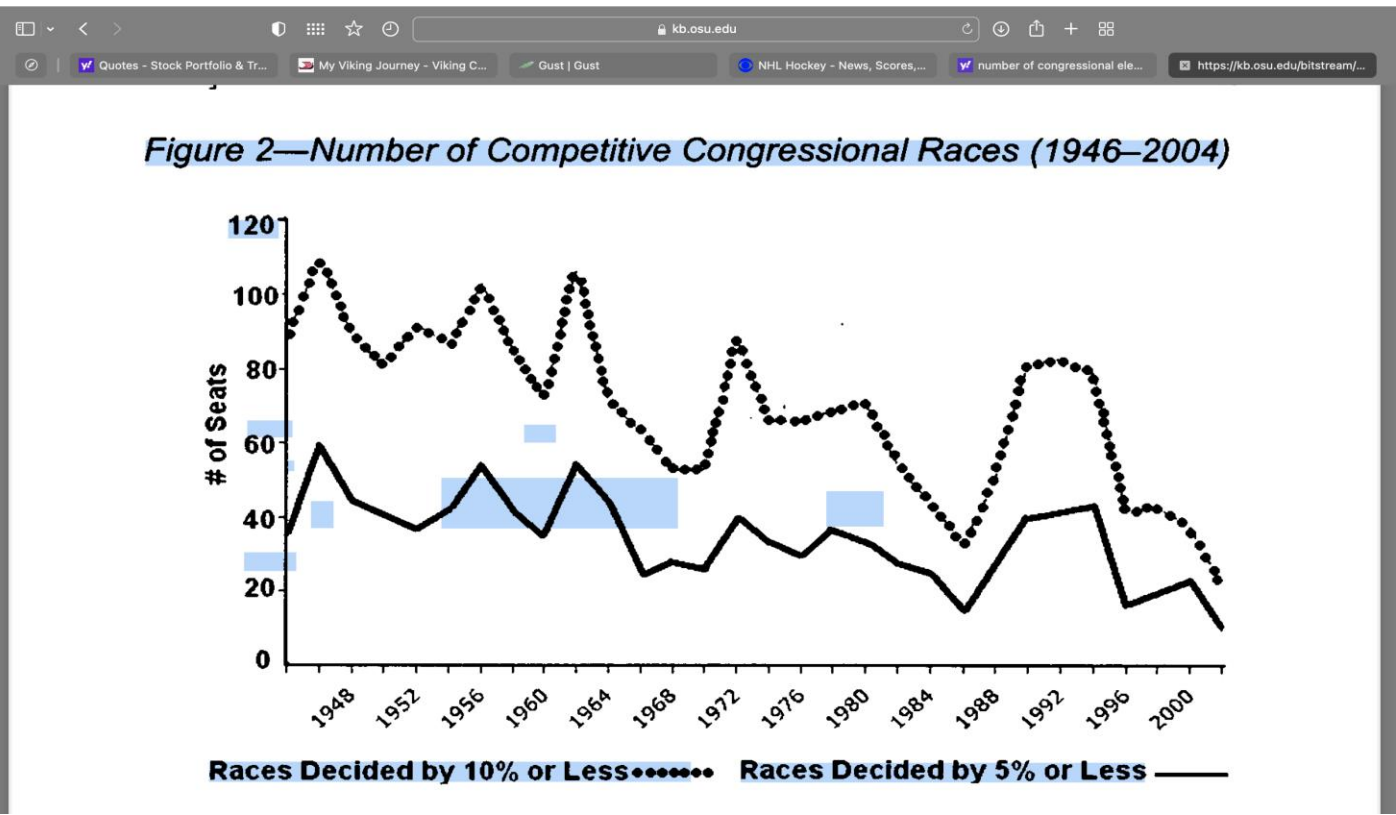
Thursday, March 23, 2023

PROBLEM: MOST ELECTIONS ARE UNCOMPETITIVE

In most elections, one party dominates, whether as a result of where people live or gerrymandering.

1. The dominant party gerrymanders against the other party, as well as against leaders in its own party it does not like. *(Just ask Barack Obama or Hakeem Jeffries, who were gerrymandered by their own party.)*
2. Primaries are often effectively the final election.
 - In many states, independents, often the largest voting group, are prohibited from participating.
 - Both parties tend to nominate candidates that focus on their bases, reducing the opportunities for moderates and increasing extremism.
3. Turnouts are low.
 - Why should people vote when none of the candidates appeals to them?
 - Moderates, who could win the general election, are primaried into retirement.
 - Partisanship rules while moderates and bipartisanship have almost disappeared.

Look at the decline of Competitive Races and Swing Seats over time.



Reform Elections Now: Goal

Our goal is to:

- ***Create competitive elections with more moderation, increased bipartisanship, and more effective government.***



Create More Competitive Elections in 5 Simple Steps

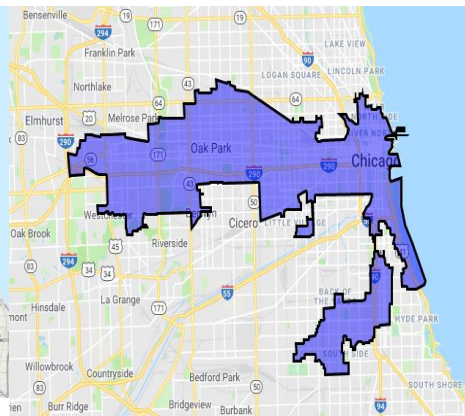
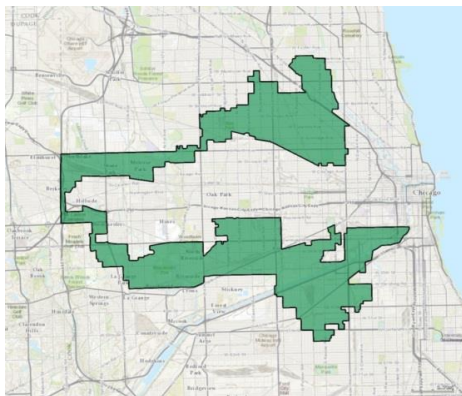
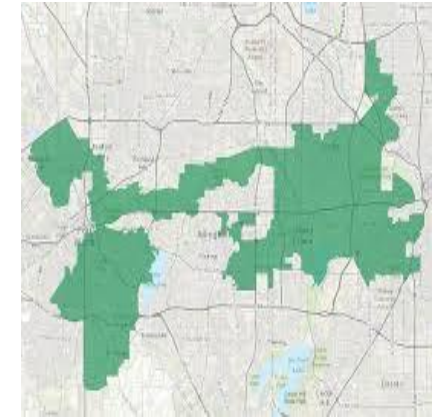
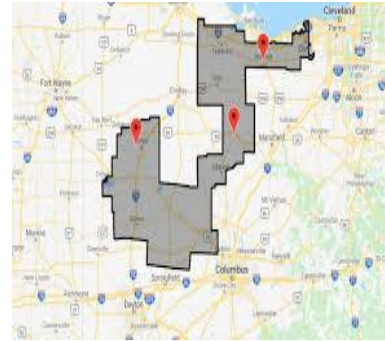
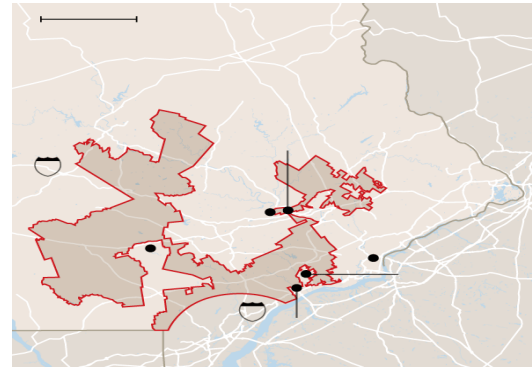
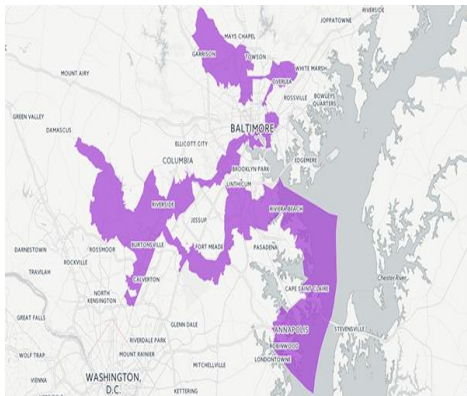
1. Eliminate Gerrymandering by having independent commissions instead of politicians draw boundaries.
2. Adopt voting systems, like Top 2 Nonpartisan primaries or Ranked Choice Voting Primaries, that encourage moderation and cooperation, and open primaries to independent voters.
3. Change final elections rules to encourage moderation and cooperation.
4. Consider new voting systems that promote moderation.
5. Make voting more accessible, so more people can vote, and less questionable, so fewer people question the results.



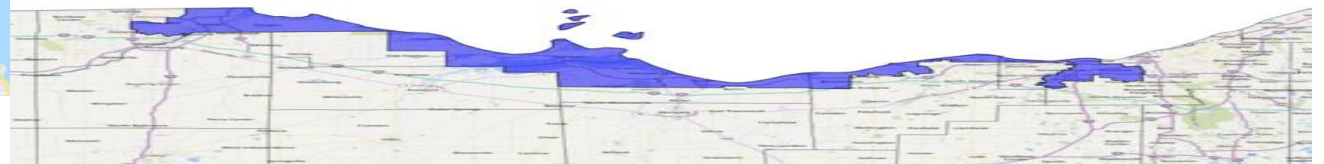
Breaking the partisan gridlock

Stoned Politicians Draw Psychedelic Election Districts.

Allowing politicians to draw their own election boundaries is like allowing children to set their own grades.



Ohio's 9th Congressional District



1. *Eliminate Gerrymandering With Independent Commissions*

Independent Commissions with Republican, Democratic, and Independent members, tend to draw election boundaries that lead to more competitive elections and less partisanship.



Breaking the partisan gridlock

2. Opening Primaries

With uncompetitive elections, the winning candidate is usually determined in the primary. But in many states, the parties prevent or make it very difficult for independents to participate in these primaries.

- 1. Eliminate Closed and Semi-Closed Primaries.** If states like N.Y., Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, Oregon, and others had open primaries, more moderate candidates would be nominated and elected—and independents would not be deprived of their right to vote.
- 2. Use Top 2 Non-partisan primaries** as they do in California, Washington, Louisiana, and Nebraska (for state offices only), in which the top 2 candidates regardless of party, advance to the final election. These primaries often have high turnout and elect the more moderate candidate.
- 3. Use Ranked Choice Voting.** RCV usually leads to the airing of many points of view, more cooperation, and less negative campaigning.

3. *Changing the Rules for Final Elections*

Top 2 Nonpartisan

In this system, the winning candidate in the final election is often the one that can appeal to more moderates, especially if two members of the same party are pitted against each other.

Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting promotes multiple points of view, less negative campaigning, more cooperation, and the election of more moderates. It also dilutes the power of Big Money by making it more difficult for money to target winners.

- It can also eliminate costly run-offs, such as the recent election in Georgia. Georgia allows RCV for military and overseas voters. Had it allowed the same system for all voters, there would have been no run-off.
- There are several different versions of RCV.
 - Maine uses a traditional RCV model. Alaska uses Top 4 RCV. Other states are considering Top 5. Each version has unique strengths and weaknesses.

4. New Election Systems

In addition to our First-Past-the-Post format, Top 2 non-partisan, and Ranked Choice Voting, some states are considering other election systems could result in the election of more moderate candidates and increase bi-partisanship, including:

- **Approval voting:** where people vote for all the candidates for whom they approve. The candidate with the broadest approval is the winner.
- **Condorcet voting:** All candidates are ranked and paired against each other. The victor of the most pairwise elections is the winner.
- **Plus-Minus Voting:** Everyone gets one vote. They can vote for (Plus) or against (Minus) a candidate. The candidate with the highest Plus-Minus number wins.
- **Multi-member districts:** Each district has more than one representative, giving voters the opportunity to elect an official that represents their interest.



Breaking the partisan gridlock

5. Make Voting More Accessible & Secure

Making voting more accessible and secure encourages more people to vote so that elections are not dominated by the base of each party. Steps include:

1. Easing steps to **registration** and maintaining up-to-date voting lists, so people entitled to vote can - and people not entitled to vote cannot.
2. Providing reasonable periods of **early voting** to lessen the crush on Election Day.
3. Providing opportunities for **mail-in voting**, especially for older and rural voters, and people who are traveling.
 - However, time limits should be set so votes do not come in late.
4. Providing all citizens with **Voter ID cards linked to a national voter registry** to limit disputes about voter identification.

How Can Change Be Implemented in States?

There are two models for implementing change:

- ***The Trigger Model***
- ***The Incremental Model***



In the **Trigger Model**, a major event occurs that convinces an entire state that the political system needs to be changed. This is an effective system of change. However, Triggers, like earthquakes, are major unplanned events. People cannot manufacture them, but they can respond to them.

In the **Incremental Model**, change occurs piece-by-piece in venues throughout the state. As different venues accept these changes, they may potentially lead more far-reaching statewide changes.

The Trigger Model

The Trigger Model requires an event that unifies parts of both parties to create change.

1. In Maine, Republican Governor LePage, who won with 35% of the vote, alienated members of both parties who united to implement Ranked Choice Voting.
2. In Alaska, Senator Lisa Murkowski lost a Republican primary to a Tea Party candidate and had to run as a write-in, because of the Sore Loser Law. After the election, Republicans joined Democrats in approving Top 4 Ranked Choice Voting.
3. In California, Arnold Schwarzenegger saw the state going blue, so he advocated Top 2 non-partisan primaries, which attracted support from Independents and moderates of both parties.
4. Nevada may adopt Ranked Choice Voting largely because in 2022 all major winning state-wide candidates failed to reach 50% of the vote.

The Trigger model is very effective in creating change, but it requires a true trigger.



Incremental Model

In the incremental model, states implement reforms at the primary or local level to give voters experience with new systems.

1. Some states have created independent commissions for districting, opened their primaries, or provided increased early and mail-in voting.
2. Localities have implemented RCV or other new voting systems, giving voters direct experience. When others see the systems work in their state, they are usually more open to wider implementation.
3. Some states have implemented new systems in primaries, Presidential nominations, and State-wide nominations.
 - a. In Virginia, Republicans used Ranked Choice Voting to nominate Glenn Youngkin for Governor, who then flipped the state Republican.

Resistance to Change: The 2 Parties

There are, however, two forces strongly resistant to change: The Democratic and the Republican Parties.

- The two parties have spent 169 years building their duopoly. They like controlling elections and candidates who support their bases. They do not like bi-partisanship, and steadfastly oppose anything that could challenge their control.
 - Ask Adam Kinzinger. When he voted to impeach Trump:
 - Republicans threw him out of their caucus, and
 - Democrats gerrymandered him into retirement.
- The parties will put up a strong resistance to anything threatening their duopoly.

Progress in States

In tonight's meeting, we will hear from people from various states that are focused on electoral reform.



Each person will describe the conditions in their state, the challenges, and the progress to date.

After the state presentations, we will have a Q&A session.

Tonight's Speakers

Arizona: Sarah Smallhouse

- Sarah is President of the Brown Foundations, a family philanthropy focused on education and research, workforce development and civic leadership. She is also President of Save Democracy, an Arizona nonprofit organization focused on systemic election reform. She is a Tucson native and a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School mid-career program.

Pennsylvania: Chris Piros

- Chris is a member of the core team at Reform Elections Now. Chris is an investment strategist, portfolio manager, author, and educator who lives in Pennsylvania. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University.

Connecticut: Allegra Klein

- Allegra is a graduate of Harvard University with an MBA from UConn. She is a healthcare industry executive and Vice President of Reform Elections Now. Allegra lives in Connecticut.

Virginia: Liz White

- Liz is the founding Executive Director of UpVote Virginia and former Executive Director of OneVirginia2021. She was instrumental in the growth of Virginia's redistricting movement as well as Virginia's Presence at the Polls program. Liz is a graduate of William & Mary and lives in Virginia.



1. Arizona: The 2022 Elections

- Publicly funded, semi-closed, party-run primaries
- Only 10% of Independents/PND voters participate in the primary elections (they must specifically request a ballot).
- 23 % of voters participated in the primary election - 13% in the Republican primary and 10% in the Democratic primary.
- Extreme and ideological candidates won primary contests and general election voters did not like their choices, especially moderate Republicans.
- 83% of legislative districts lean heavily red or blue.
- 9 incumbent legislators lost to a candidate more ideologically extreme.
- Independent voters represent 34% of the electorate but Arizonans have never elected an Independent to statewide office.

2. Arizona: Voters

Arizona Voters Not as red as people think

1/3 Republican

1/3 Democrat

1/3 Independent/Party Not Designated and the majority in Maricopa County

Arizona Legislative Races

Nearly 80% of races were noncompetitive, won by a margin of 10% or more

Elections were determined by a minority of the majority.



2. Arizona: Voters

Arizonans are mad:

Leadership is failing

Misaligned priorities

Nothing is getting done

35% of voters think Arizona is headed in the right direction.

70% of Arizona voters DO NOT believe our elected officials are focused on the issues they care about most.

69% of Arizona voters DO NOT believe that politicians are delivering the results they want, need, and deserve.

3. Arizona: The Solution = Final Five Voting (FFV)

Preliminary Election (August)

Top 5 single vote-getters advance

Nonpartisan

All Voters eligible

All candidates have same qualifying requirements

General Election (November)

Voters may rank up to their top 5 preferences and the winner(s) are determined using an instant runoff process

4. Arizona: Citizen's Initiative on the 2024 ballot

- A group of Arizona leaders have coalesced to lead a citizens' initiative to implement FFV via constitutional amendment
- 501c3 currently active to raise awareness of the "Primary Problem" and potential solutions
- 501c4 in place for an advocacy campaign
- Finalizing the specific initiative language and fundraising
- Expect to activate a campaign this spring and start collecting signatures this summer
- 385,000 signatures needed, goal >500,000 collected
- Coalition of organizations forming to synergize around strengths

5. *Better Choices, Better Results, Better Arizona*



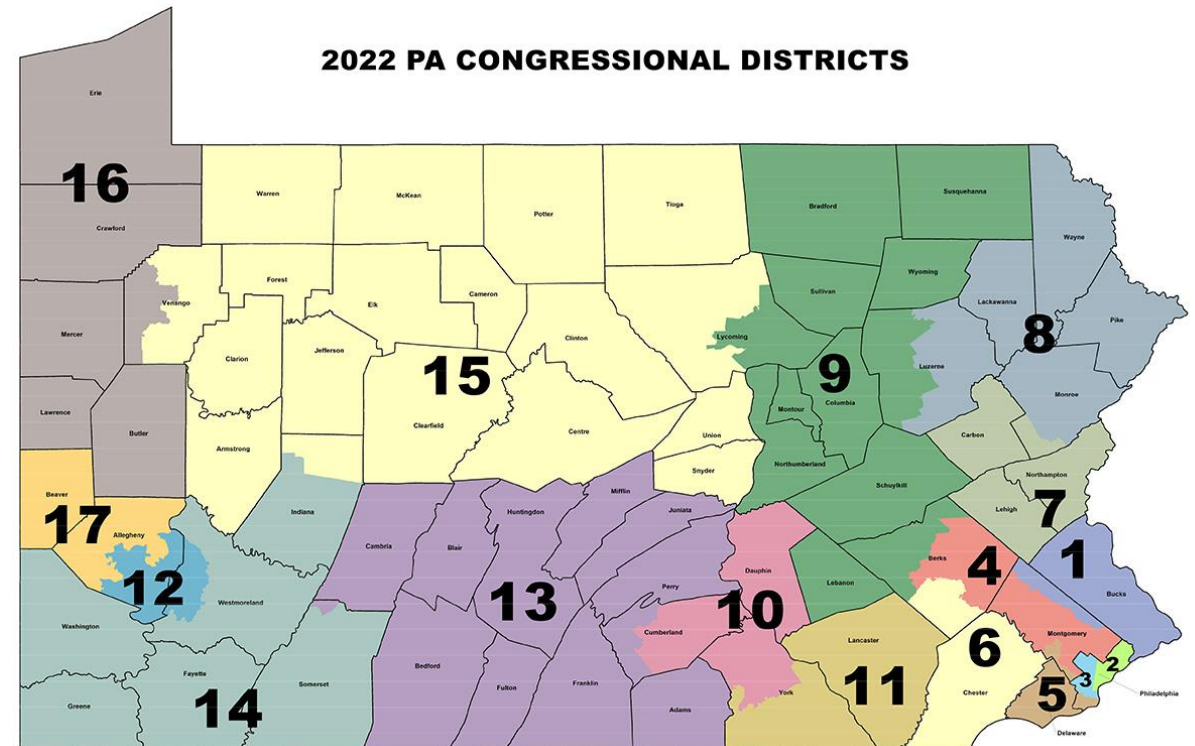
VOTERCHOICEARIZONA.ORG

SAVEDEMOCRACYAZ.COM

Pennsylvania

Today we will address the following topics:

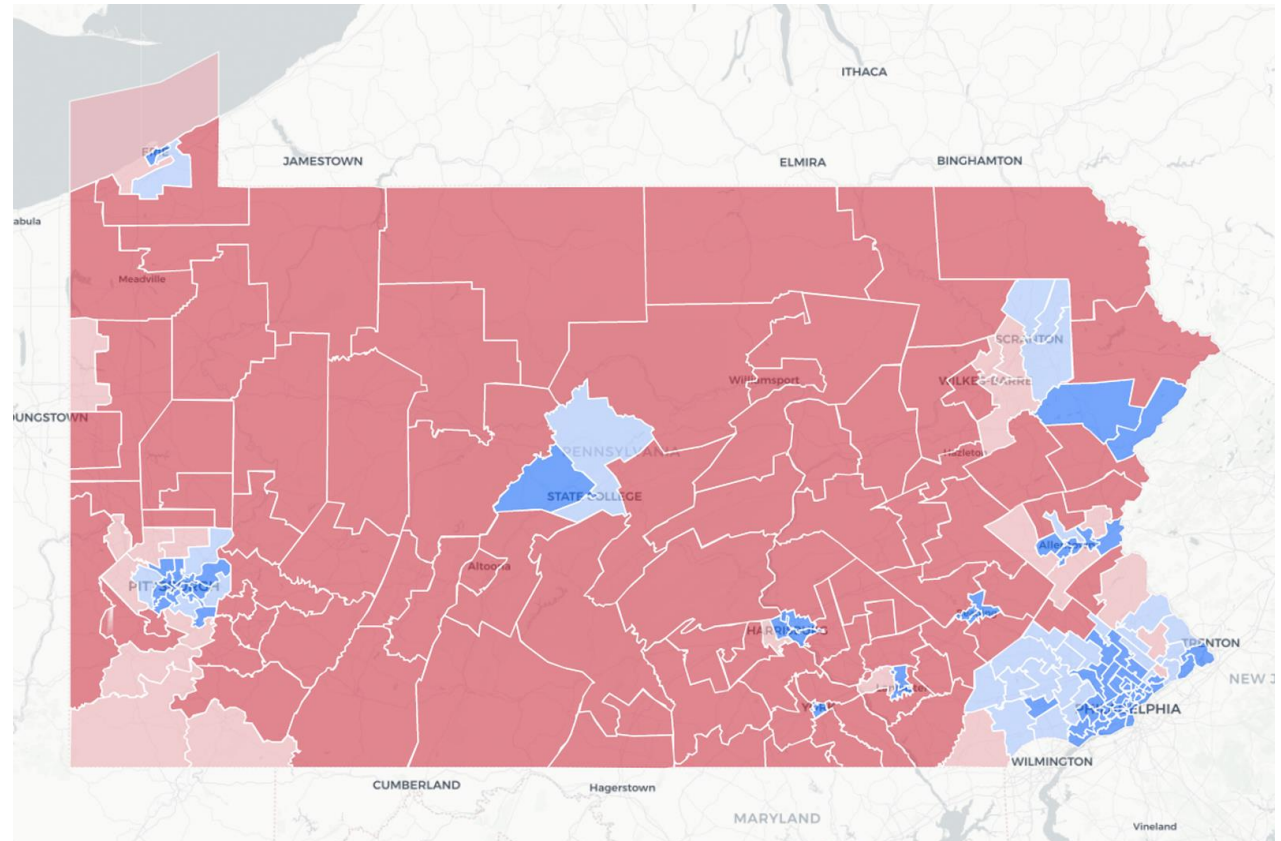
1. Partisan Lay of the Land
2. Redistricting
3. What Voters Asked For
4. Closed Primaries
5. Mail-In & Early Voting
6. Ranked Choice Voting
7. Constitutional Amendments



1. Pennsylvania – Partisan Lay of the Land

Resembles the Nation
Urban/Rural divide
“Blue” on the “coasts”
“Red” in the middle

State House Districts By Party Voting Pattern*



Breaking the partisan gridlock

- Governor - **Shapiro (D)**
- US Senators - **Casey (D), Fetterman (D)**
- US House - **9 (D), 8 (R)**
- State Senate - **22 (D), 28 (R)**
- State House - **101 (D), 100 (R), 2 vacant**
- Supreme Court - **4 (D), 2 (R), 1 vacant**

* Philadelphia Inquirer. Voting pattern based on 2016 & 2020 Presidential election results

2. Pennsylvania – Redistricting

- Philadelphia Inquirer: “A rich history of gerrymandering”
- Legislature is supposed to draw the districts – But
 - In 2018 the PA Supreme Court struck down the 2011 congressional map that had given Republicans roughly 2/3 of the seats 2012 – 2018. US Supreme Court declined appeal to reinstate the 2011 map.
 - In 2022, Governor Wolfe vetoed congressional map drawn by Republican-controlled legislature. PA Supreme Court again imposed its own map => Little change from prior map => Almost evenly split congressional delegation.
 - 2022 PA House Districts: Drawn by 5 person Legislative Reapportionment Commission with chairman appointed by the PA Supreme Court
- Future of the Legislature vs. Supreme Court battle over PA redistricting likely depends on how the US Supreme Court rules in a related NC case this term

3. Pennsylvania – What Voters Asked For

(Interim) House Speaker Mark Rossi and a bi-partisan committee went on a “listening tour” around the state early this year to gather input from voters – not on policy but on reforming politics and government in PA. Here are some priorities raised at the meeting in the Southeastern part of state (Philadelphia area):

1. Open Primaries
2. Redistricting – Need Independent Commission
3. Campaign Finance Reform / Public Campaign Finance
4. Constitutional Amendments
 - Separate Votes
 - Allow amendments to be initiated by referendum
 - Only on General election ballots, not Primary ballots
5. Legislative Process & Action
 - Streamline – limit time to get bills out of committee & vote [only 8% of 3900 bills got through the process last session]
 - Transparency – No closed door meetings. Public calendar of upcoming actions. More lead time for comments ahead of votes.
 - Proportional representation on committees.
 - Prohibit unlimited gifts to legislators (asserted that PA is only state that does not.)
 - Ban side jobs for legislators.

4. Pennsylvania – Closed Primaries

- Pennsylvania is one of only 9 states that do not allow independent (unaffiliated) voters to vote in primaries. The others are DE, FL, KY, MD, NM, NV, NY and OR.
- Senators Dan Laughlin [R] and Lisa Boscola [D] and Representatives Jared Solomon (D) and Christopher Rabb (D) are recruiting bipartisan co-sponsors and plan to introduce bills soon to allow independents to vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary.
- The Committee of Seventy's Ballot PA initiative as well as Ballot PA Voter Corps, are pushing this.
- Ballot PA is optimistic. Other PA-savvy experts are more skeptical of success in the current legislative environment.

5. Pennsylvania – Mail-In and Early Voting

- Controversial Issues in Pennsylvania.
- There are no uniform rules on issues such as ballot curing, drop boxes, etc. It is a patchwork across counties. The rules sometimes differ within an electoral district that cuts across jurisdictions. **Business for America – PA** has set uniform rules as a 2023 priority.
- PA Supreme Court (8/2/22) upheld Act 77 allowing all voters to use mail-in ballots with deadline to receive ballots at 8:00 PM on election day regardless of postmark.
- **Undated Ballots:** US Supreme Court (11/11/22) threw out 3rd Circuit Court ruling that required counting undated mail-in ballots. Appears to have sent the issue back to the Pennsylvania courts.
- **Pre-canvassing** (opening ballots before election day): Remains a big issue in Pennsylvania. It was included in an omnibus election bill vetoed by Governor Wolfe last year. Bill to allow it is likely again this session. **Business for America – PA** has set this as a 2023 priority.

6. Pennsylvania – Ranked Choice Voting

- Pennsylvania elections use the **First-Passed-the-Post** (a.k.a. **plurality**) decision rule.
- Senate Bill #59 in 2021-22 session called for authorization of RCV in municipal elections.
- A 2021 report by the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center rated Pennsylvania as **“Prepping for RCV”** because only 88% of counties had/have RCV-capable voting equipment.
- In December 2022 the Democratic nominating committee used RCV to select candidates for 3 special elections held February 7, 2023. The nominating races were decided in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th rounds respectively.
- Newly formed Keystone Party is advocating for RCV + Open Primaries.

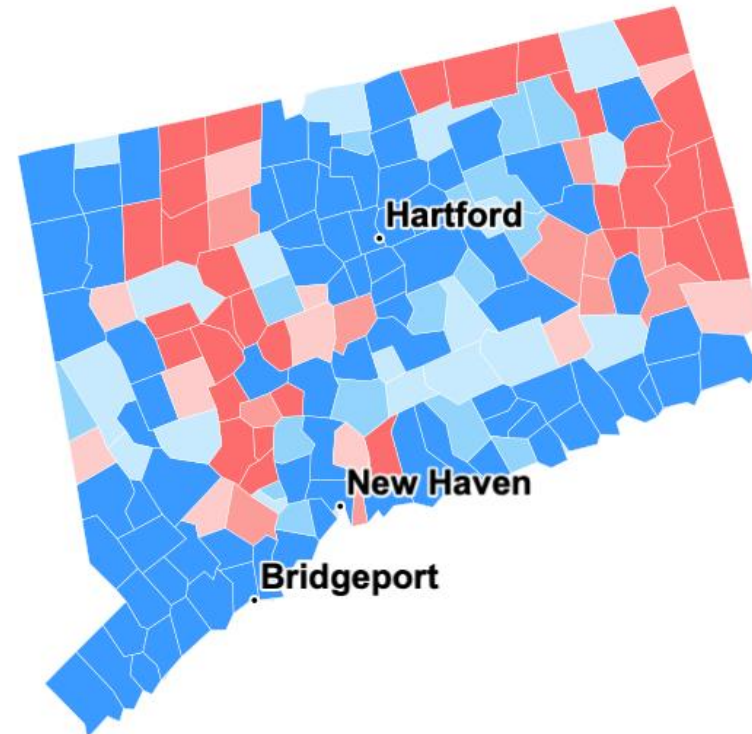
7. Pennsylvania – Constitutional Amendments

- There are 6 potential Constitutional Amendments which may appear as ballot measures in 2023, but they have not been certified yet. Two of them are election-related:
 - **Voter Qualifications and Identification Amendment:** Would require a voter ID to cast a ballot.
 - **Election Audits Amendment:** Provides for auditing of elections and election results.
- Only the Pennsylvania legislature can propose ballot measures. These must be passed in two consecutive legislative sessions in order to appear on the ballot.

Connecticut

Connecticut has a lengthy history of election debate and reform. Today we will address the following topics:

1. Background on CT voters
2. Closed Primaries
3. Early Voting
4. Ranked Choice Voting
5. “Sore Loser” Law



1. Connecticut – Registered Voters

- The breakdown of registered voters in Connecticut is shown in this chart containing data from the Secretary of State’s website:

Active Registered Voters in Connecticut

Data taken from www.portal.ct.gov

Party	2020	2021	2022	% in 2022
Unaffiliated	939,715	930,963	924,214	41%
Democratic	850,083	825,286	813,384	36%
Republican	480,033	463,656	463,401	21%
Other*	39,745	37,633	36,017	2%

TOTALS 2,309,576 2,257,538 2,237,016

* includes registered Independents

1. Connecticut – Registered Voters

- What is an **unaffiliated voter**? Unaffiliated refers to voters who are not registered with any political party.
 - This term is used instead of referring to these voters as “independent” to avoid confusion with the **Independent Party**, which is an established political party in CT.
 - **In 2022, 41% of active voters – almost 1 million – were unaffiliated.**
- According to [Ballotpedia](#), just 17,000 people were registered as Independents in 2014.
 - **In other words, Registered Independents make up less than 1% of active voters.**
- So what does this mean for Connecticut?

2. Connecticut – Closed Primaries

- Connecticut is a **Closed Primary** state. This means that only registered party members can participate in a party's primary.
 - In 1984, CT's Republican Party adopted a rule that unaffiliated voters could participate in their primaries. It was challenged by the Secretary of the State, claiming it violated a 1956 state statute, allowing only party members to vote in primaries.
 - The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court (*Tashjian v. Republican Party of Connecticut et al.*, 107 S. Ct 544) in 1986, which ruled CT's closed primary law unconstitutional, based on First Amendment rights of political parties to associate with whomever they want.
 - After the ruling, the General Assembly passed legislation establishing procedures where unaffiliated voters 'could' vote in a primary, if the parties amended their rules. However, neither major party has taken up the issue.
- Since **41% of CT voters do not identify with either major party AND are not registered as Independents, they are excluded from the primary process.**



Breaking the partisan gridlock

2. Connecticut – Closed Primaries

- Perhaps because so many Connecticut-ers do not identify with any of the registered political parties, it is unsurprising that we also suffer from extremely low turnout in primary elections.
- The bottom five states for **primary turnout nationwide in 2022** were Virginia, New York, **Connecticut**, Delaware, and Mississippi. Each had 12% participation or less.
- In fact, CT was also one of just 5 states that have **never attained 15% turnout in midterm primaries over the past decade** – the others being Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.
- NJ and VA have an excuse because they do not have state elections during the off-years. LA also has an excuse because of its non-partisan system — so NY and CT are both really dead last.



Breaking the partisan gridlock

3. Connecticut – Early Voting

- In 2022, Connecticut enacted an amendment to its constitution allowing for **Early Voting**. This amendment authorizes the state legislature to provide by law for in-person early voting before an election.
- Until last year, CT was **one of 4 states*** that still did not permit early voting. A previous amendment allowing early voting AND removing restrictions on absentee voting was defeated in 2014. However, last year (after removing the absentee provision) it passed with 60% of residents voting in favor.
- Legislation is currently being considered to determine the length of time early voting will be allowed, as well as allocation of funds to support it. CT's new Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas, wants **10 days** of early voting, while others, including CT's Senator Chris Murphy, are advocating for **at least 14 days**.
- Some form of the bill is expected to pass the CT state legislature this year.



** The others are New Hampshire, Alabama and Mississippi*

4. Connecticut – Ranked Choice Voting

- Election winners in Connecticut are currently determined via **plurality vote**, meaning that the candidate with the greatest number of votes wins the election – even if they did not win an outright majority of votes cast.
- Last year, both candidates running for Governor expressed support for **Ranked Choice Voting** in CT – Gov. Ned Lamont (D), who said he would submit legislation for RCV if re-elected, and Bob Stefanowski (R), who said he was “open” to it.*
- After Gov. Lamont won re-election, he suggested in his [inaugural address in January 2023](#) that RCV would “take some of the sting out of politics and bring some of the decency back to public service.”
- Since then, 3 pieces of legislation have been proposed to implement RCV in CT – 2 sponsored by Democrats and 1 bipartisan bill – for a total of 27 state representatives.

* [“Gov. Ned Lamont earns cross endorsement, agrees to propose significant voting change,”](#) CT Post, Sept. 7, 2022

4. Connecticut – Ranked Choice Voting

- The bipartisan bill – ***SB 389, An Act Concerning Ranked-Choice Voting*** – was introduced to the CT State Legislature earlier this month.
- SB 389 focuses on RCV in local municipal elections and gives towns permission, rather than a mandate, to use this system. It also provides for RCV in elections for members of Congress and allows its use for presidential primaries.
- [CT Voters First](#) supports this legislation and spearheaded a campaign to provide testimony for the Government Administration and Elections Committee hearing in Hartford on March 6th.
- While there is significant support for RCV, the biggest hurdle to passing legislation in CT is **implementation**.



Breaking the partisan gridlock

4. Connecticut – Ranked Choice Voting

- According to a January 27th article about **SB 389** in *CT News Junkie*, “Connecticut election officials are not equipped to implement a ranked-choice voting system.”
 - Christopher Prue, president of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, said it would be impossible to carry out an election using ranked-choice voting given the aging tabulator machines used by local officials in the state’s 169 municipalities.
 - He added, “The state and state legislature would need to approve brand new and high-tech tabulators before that would even be possible.”
- However, CT is already planning to replace at least some of its voting machines to comply with the new early voting mandate. If this can be accomplished, then the hope is that RCV can be implemented.



Breaking the partisan gridlock

4. Connecticut – Ranked Choice Voting

Update from Maryfrances Metrick, Advisory Board Member, CT Voters First

- 11 representatives from CT Voters First presented at the **GAE hearing in Hartford on March 6**, as well as a handful of other advocates separate from our organization.
- **Gov. Ned Lamont** provided written testimony in support of **SB 389**.
- CT Voters First submitted a **dozen letters in support of RCV**, including a letter from Gen Z leaders and another that had 117 CT voters sign on.
- They plan to **drop federal elections** from their proposal, opting instead to advocate for a study of fusion voting and RCV – is the major sticking point of the federal election component of the bill.



5. Connecticut – “Sore Loser” Laws

- **Fun fact:** Connecticut was the last state (in 1955) to adopt the party primary system, and it was used only if a loser wanted to challenge the choice of the state convention.
- This may explain why CT is one of only a handful of states that has yet to enact some form of the **Sore Loser law** – legislation which bars candidates who sought, but failed, to secure the nomination of a political party from running as Independents or as nominees for another party in the general election.
- Here in CT, a *Sore Loser* law would have ended one of the most exciting Senate races in 2006, between the incumbent **Sen. Joe Lieberman and Ned Lamont** (who would later become Governor). Lamont won his primary and became the Democratic nominee for Lieberman’s seat. However, CT election law allowed Lieberman to petition for the general-election ballot in November and win re-election for a 4th term as an Independent.
- Lieberman lost the party’s support by only 4%. His centrist views ultimately won over CT’s largest group of voters – the unaffiliated. (See [“Let Losers Try To Win,” Hartford Courant, Aug. 20, 2006](#))

1. Virginia – Who is UpVote Virginia

New iteration of OneVirginia2021 - last decade, we worked on redistricting reform - this decade goes beyond that

Nonpartisan - continuing our work to improve processes, not partisan outcomes

Coalition Partner - team up with existing organizations to supplement and/or magnify efforts



2. Virginia – Why Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting is a **simple change** to the ballot that enables a **better voter experience, better campaigns,** and ultimately, **better government.** RCV gives voters more freedom, more expression, and more power. Instead of picking just one candidate, a voter has the option to rank their candidates in order of preference — 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and so on.

3. Virginia – When is RCV used?

- In races with more than 2 candidates on the ballot.
- When no candidate receives more than half of the first choice votes (50%+1).
- More people than ever are stepping up to run for office, and our current system isn't built to support more choice.

4. Virginia – Benefits of RCV

1. Ensures majority winners.
2. Rewards candidates who build consensus + diminishes negative campaigning.
3. Shown to elect more non-traditional candidates.
4. Eliminates “spoilers.”
5. Shown to increase voter turnout.
6. Easy to understand.

5. Virginia – Why Virginia Matters

- UpVote Virginia launch had bipartisan spokesmen - Gov. George Allen (R), Congressman Don Beyer (D)
- Purple state - can course correct the national perception that RCV is a progressive issue.
 - GOP Statewide Nominating Convention in 2021
 - 4 GOP Congressional Nominating Contests in 2022
- VA has business, military, civil service, agriculture communities - multi-varied GOP sectors.



6. Virginia – Why Virginia Matters

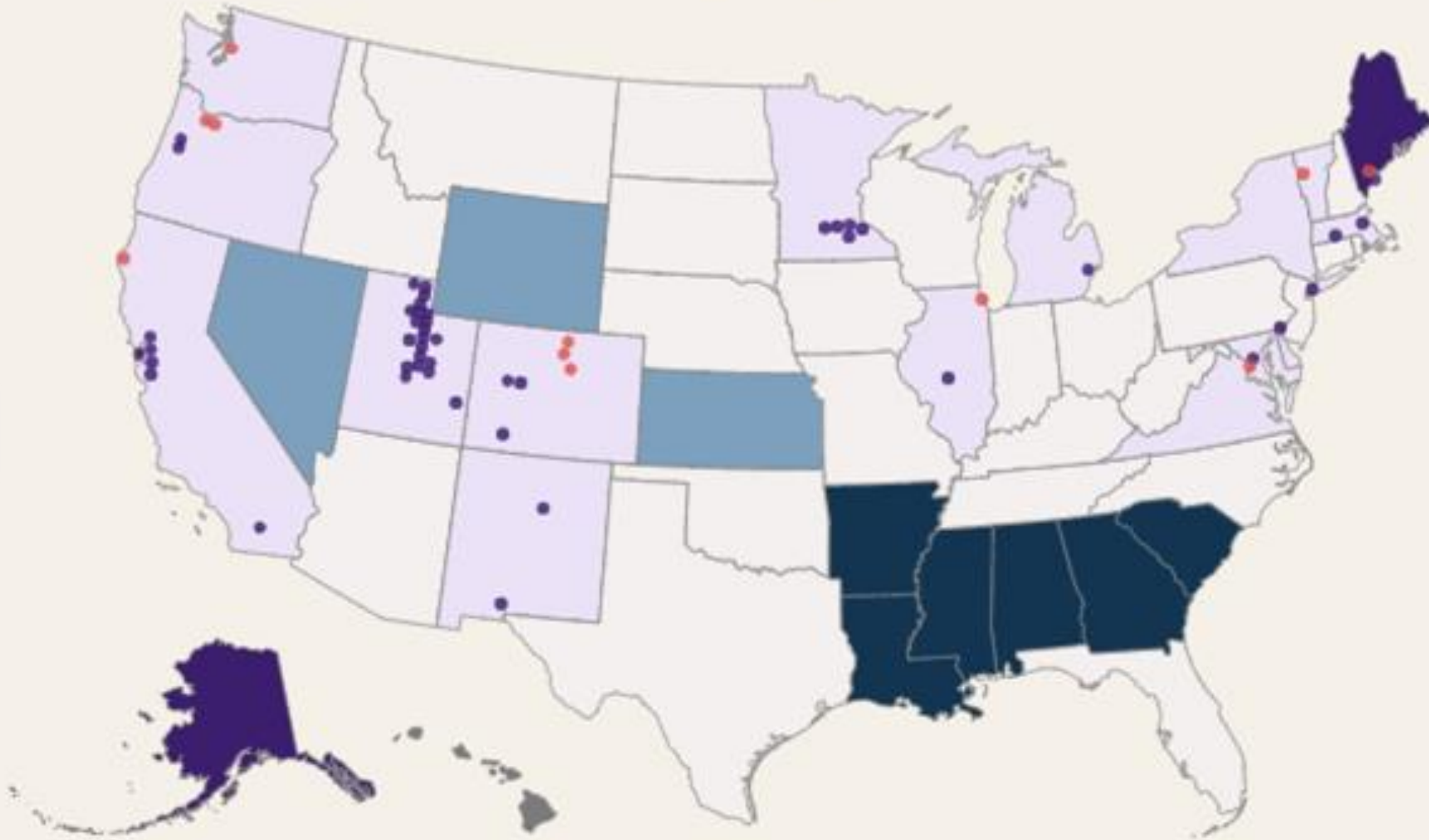
- PITCH: Virginia is a swing state. Control of the legislative branch is in play every two years and extreme candidates lead to extreme shifts in policy with no hope of compromise.
- Businesses and communities can't plan effectively.
- Potential for moderating voices in GOP to embrace RCV as a way of reclaiming their party.

7. Virginia – Status of RCV in Virginia

1. HB1103 - local option
2. Arlington - first in VA to adopt, implementation
3. Expand to other localities.
4. Presidential Primaries
5. Expand statewide RCV legislation.

Where is RCV used?

Cities and counties: ● In use ● Upcoming use
States: ■ Used statewide ■ Local elections in some jurisdictions
■ Military and overseas voters ■ 2020 Democratic presidential primary
■ Special elections



8. Virginia – Parallel Strategies in Virginia

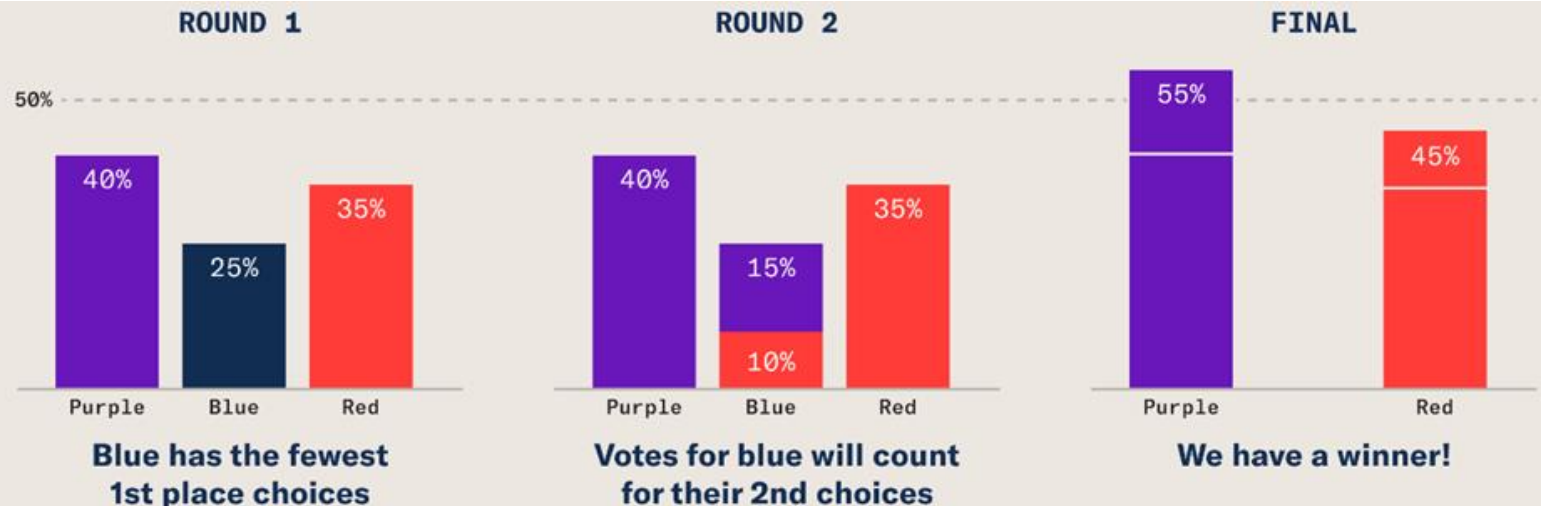
1. Expand local adoption - voter education and advocacy.
2. Pass statewide legislation for new implementation options (e.g. statewide primaries in 2025, presidential primaries in 2028)
3. Facilitate implementation of RCV in Arlington, etc.
4. VOTER EDUCATION

9. Virginia – How does RCV work?

1. Voters have the option to rank candidates in order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.
2. If no candidate receives majority support on the initial round, the last place candidate is eliminated and that candidate's 2nd place votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates.
3. The process continues until a winner has earned over 50% of voters' support.



SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT	1	2	3
RED			
PURPLE			
BLUE			



10. Virginia – Case Study: RCV in Presidential Primaries

- Wasted votes 2020 Dem presidential primary:
30,481 in VA (2.3%), 3,010,892 nationally
- Wasted votes on 2016 Rep primary:
11,532 in VA (1.1%), 1,768,884 nationally



Virginia – Get in touch and find out more!

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Questions?

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