

In the ever elusive quest for political legitimacy, a modest proposal for election reform: 1. Abolish the Electoral College in favor of a direct popular vote; 2. Either make election day on a weekend or a national holiday; 3. Establish a universal national i.d. for all elections, as now prevails in many democratic countries; 4. Require all financial contributions be traced down to the individual contributor in which no one can hide behind a PAC or Super-PAC; 5. Establish a mandate that no declared candidate can be considered legitimate until a 100 day deadline to an election has been reached; 6. Establish a rule that unless the Senate acts on a judicial or administrative nominee within 90 days, the nominee shall be automatically confirmed; 7. Establish a rule that a failure to adhere to a fully approved budget within 90 days a given fiscal calendar shall result in an immediate election within the next 90 days and in which no sitting elected member of Congress shall be entitled to run again; 8. Set term limits on members of Congress to no more than two for the Senate and no more than three for the House; 9. Following any election, the losing party shall draw up new voting districts (which may work as a de facto version of number 8); 10. Require that all members of Congress be subject to the same public legislation on retirement benefits as the rest of the citizenry, e.g. Medicare and Social Security, with voter approval of any change in benefit levels; 11. Restore the fairness doctrine to public broadcasting; 12. Adjust the number of Senate seats in proportion to the population (this could result in a larger Senate than at present but would offset the small population state advantage in favor of a more representative Senate); and to complete this as a baker's dozen, 13. Adopt capital budgeting rules for the federal government (similar to what now is required of all 50 states) to create better fiscal discipline in terms of deficit/surplus spending measures.