

The Center for Voting and Democracy studies and provides information on how voting systems affect participation, governance, and representation. We specialize in redistricting and the broad range of proportional representation systems that allow more voters to elect candidates of their choice. We also advocate reforming elections for one-seat offices to promote majority rule and more participation.

We Provide the Following:

- *Comprehensive website & library*
- *Legal assistance in voting rights cases*
- *Assistance in drafting legislation*
- *Analysis of alternative voting plans*
- *Amicus Curiae briefs*
- *Voter education & community workshops*

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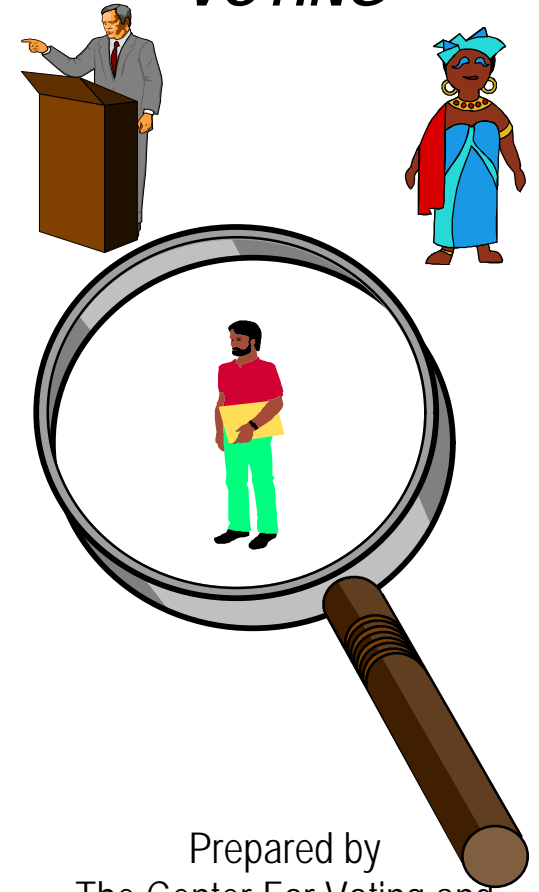
For more information, contact:

The Center for Voting and Democracy
 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 901
 Takoma Park, MD 20912
 (301) 270-4616 (301) 270-4133[fax]
 www.fairvote.org cvdusa@aol.com

Key Terms

At-Large Election – Candidates are elected from the entire area, not districts.
Constituent – Citizens residing in a particular candidate’s area or district.
District Election/Single-Member District – Candidates run for office representing certain districts. Only one candidate can be elected from the district.
Full Representation System – Alternative election systems like cumulative voting, limited voting, and choice voting where groupings of voters are likely to win seats in proportion to that grouping’s share of the popular vote; also called “proportional representation.”
Multi-Seat Election – More than one candidate is elected from a particular area.
One-Person, One-Vote Principle – Law stipulating that everyone’s vote must be counted equally.
Plurality – The person, or persons with the most votes win.
Threshold – The percentage of the vote a group must obtain in order to have a certain chance of electing someone of their own choosing.
Voting Rights Act – 1965 federal law ensuring equal opportunity and fairness in the voting process. **Section 2** prohibits minority vote dilution which is basically tactics, legislation, situations, etc. that weaken the voting strength of minorities. **Section 5** requires that certain areas obtain approval before enacting any voting changes.
Winner-Take-All System – Generally, our American election system where 51 percent of voters can win 100 percent of representation; unlike a system where seats are distributed according to a proportion or percentage of the vote.

LIMITED VOTING



Prepared by
 The Center For Voting and
 Democracy

