



Media Highlights: Fall 2005

www.fairvote.org

The Washington Post

CALIFORNIA, OHIO TO VOTE ON REDISTRICTING CHANGES

By JOHN WHITESIDES, ASSOCIATED PRESS

"There is a great consensus that the lack of voter choice and competition is a problem," said Robert Richie, executive director of FairVote-the Center for Voting and Democracy. "It is not as easy agreeing on a solution."

Los Angeles Times

MODEST CHANGE SEEN UNDER PROP. 77

By NANCY VOGEL

By ignoring the advantages of incumbent politicians – such as name recognition among voters – the Rose Institute report probably exaggerates the number of competitive districts the judges could draw, said Rob Richie, executive director of FairVote – the Center for Voting and Democracy in Maryland. Changing redistricting, Richie said, "still hasn't created any nirvana of competition."

TomPaine.com

THE SHRINKING BATTLEGROUND

By CHRIS PEARSON AND RYAN O'DONNELL

FairVote, in its report "The Shrinking Battleground," shows how hardening partisan division has slashed the number of competitive states nearly in half over the past 45 years.

ROLL CALL

GERRYMANDERING NARROWS DEM'S 2006 EDGE

By MORTON KONDRACKE

"It's pretty appalling," said FairVote's executive director, Rob Richie, whose group advocates handling redistricting through nonpartisan commissions rather than elected politicians.... One Democratic consultant deeply involved in tracking House races seat by seat confirmed the gist of FairVote's analysis...

THE SUN

MAJORITY RULE MAKING COMEBACK

By RYAN O'DONNELL

When a candidate does not win with a majority, the question follows naturally: to whom is the new leader accountable?

The New York Times

MORE CHOICE IN ELECTIONS

By JOHN B. ANDERSON

A strong two-party system cannot rest upon denying the ability of independents to hold the major parties accountable. It would be far more democratic for lawmakers to change their election laws ... to allow instant runoff voting for executives and proportional voting for legislators.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

PARTIES SHOULD MAKE DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT A PRIORITY

By RYAN O'DONNELL

Every Democratic voter in Texas is as locked out of the system as every Republican in Massachusetts.

Hartford Courant

A VOTE FOR ALL: PANEL WANTS UNIVERSAL REGISTRATION, REVAMPED PRIMARIES

By ROB RICHIE AND STEVEN HILL

Americans are increasingly fed up with both major parties, and efforts to block reasonable steps toward free and fair elections could be political folly. Certainly it is high time to call for clean and complete rolls with 100 percent registration.

The Sacramento Bee

REDISTRICTING REFORM: HOW BEST TO TACKLE ULTRA-SAFE DISTRICTS

By ROB RICHIE

For such protection of voters, we must move beyond winner-take-all districts to electoral methods designed for today's world, not the horse-and-buggy society of two centuries ago.

ArgusLeader

S.D. HAS LITTLE SAY IN PICKING PRESIDENT STUDY: STATE RANKS ZERO FOR INFLUENCE

By TERRY WOSTER

"South Dakota is completely ignored," FairVote chairman and former Illinois Republican Rep. John Anderson said in a prepared statement. "Long gone are the days when the Mount Rushmore State mattered in presidential races."

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