



Research Highlights: 2005 in Review



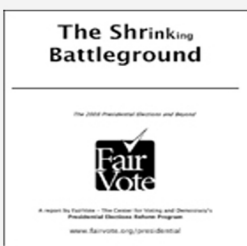
Dubious Democracy 2005: This report assesses the level of competition and accuracy of representation in U.S. House elections in all 50 states from 1982 to 2004. It then ranks each state on a "democracy index" to highlight the best and the worst states for democracy in the U.S.

Ranking the state of our democracy



Who Picks the President: This report tracks television spending and campaign visits by candidates during the height of the 2004 presidential election. The report ascertains just how wide the gulf between swing and non-swing states has become in modern elections. The vast disparity is hardly reassuring for supporters of American Democracy.

Highlighting the exclusion of U.S. voters



The Shrinking Battleground: This report uses a model of "state partisanship" to explain why the United States has experienced a decrease in the number of competitive battleground states in presidential elections, how these partisan divisions are hardening and what impact they have on our democracy.

Studying the decline in swing states



Proportional Voting Around the World: In 2005, FairVote released periodic analyses of proportional voting systems in use around the world. From Iraq and Afghanistan to Japan, we showcase how the global reform community intertwines the push for democracy abroad with proportional voting. Around the world these systems provide more accurate, inclusive, and balanced representation.

Learning from the global community



Redistricting Reform Watch: FairVote's state-by-state analysis of redistricting reform proposals tracks the impact of various initiatives on competitiveness, representation, and compatibility with proportional voting systems. It has aided in producing a more honest assessment of what the various proposals would accomplish.

Building a fair redistricting dialogue



FairVote's Superdistricts: Our new report shows how proportional voting systems would improve racial representation, provide fair party balance, and increase competition and accountability in each state. We created 50 hypothetical "super district" plans, that demonstrate how multimeber districts using proportional voting systems would work in each state.

Proportional voting in action



Filibuster 2005: Our insightful new report highlights how America's winner-take-all elections lead to massive distortions of representation in the U.S. Senate – where parties frequently win a majority of seats with fewer votes than the opposing party, less than 10% of voters can elect 40 Senators, and what this means for the legitimacy of Senate filibusters.

Understanding the filibuster's impact



Democracy SoS: This resource catalogs information about the chief election official(s) in every state as well as the electoral responsibilities of their office and how the office is filled. After recent narrowly contested elections it has become clear that those interested in fair elections must hold election administrators accountable for their actions. Democracy SoS is the first step to giving voters the knowledge to do that.

Holding election administrators accountable