



The Municipal Right To Vote

www.fairvote.org

The Right To Vote

Currently there is no law in place that guarantees citizens the right to vote in local, state or even national elections. FairVote has been working for a number of years on the Right to Vote Initiative, which has fought to introduce a constitutional amendment that will guarantee the right to vote (H.J. Res. 28). But with the growing assault on the nation's voting rights, it has become apparent that FairVote must attack the Right to Vote from a new angle: The Municipal Level.

What We Can Do At The Municipal Level

Municipalities are able to pass laws that are unique from state and national laws so long as they are not in direct contradiction to a previous law. We can advocate and implement reform through various methods, including:

1. City Charter Reviews
2. Draft Resolutions
3. Task Forces
4. Amendments to the Charter
5. Adoption of City Ordinances

Each of these methods would seek to revise the charter language to include a guaranteed right to vote and implement our eight steps for reform

Eight Steps for Reform

1. Uniform Standards
2. Universal Voter Registration
3. Early Voting/Election Holiday
4. Fair Provisional Ballot and Voter ID laws
5. Public Interest Voting Machines
6. Voting Rights for All US citizens
7. Non-Partisan Election Administration
8. A Municipal Right To Vote



Key Provisions of the Municipal Right To Vote

- Ex-Felon Voting Rights
- Limiting Voter ID Laws
- Foreign Language Ballots
- All Paper Ballots
- Election Day Holiday and Registration

The Right to Vote Today

- FairVote has switched its focus to the municipal level and seeks to guarantee the right to vote in cities.
- At the most basic level, cities must implement the conditions of HAVA (Help America Vote Act).

- The Municipal Right to Vote is the next goal, as it includes several reforms to promote good government.
- The Constitutional Right To Vote is the higher goal, as it would lead to minimum standards for how to properly conduct an election free from corruption, error, and discrimination.

What We Can Do To Make This Project A Reality

- Participate in our democracy. We often overlook municipal politics, and how powerful they are in governing our lives.
- Attend charter meetings, research local officials, and propose ideas at town hall meetings and charter review sessions.
- Send ideas and information to local newspapers to help promote the right to vote in your city or town.
- Help support the cause financially by donating money to the Right To Vote Initiative.