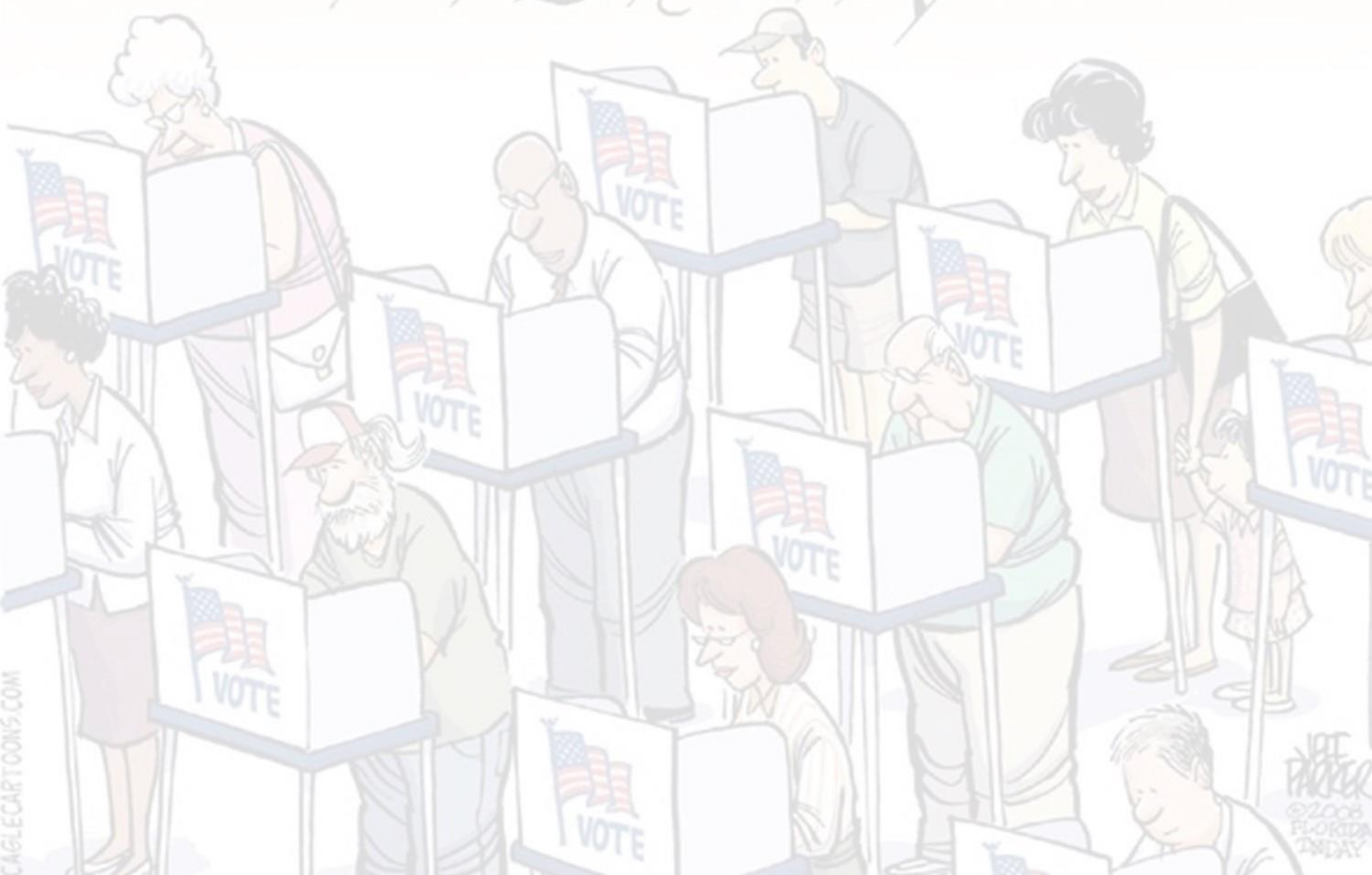


Electoral Process

We the People



Nonpartisan Election

- An election in which political parties don't nominate candidates and ballots do not include any party identification of those running for office
- Many positions that hold nonpartisan elections do so because their job does not or **should not** require political affiliation (e.g., mayors, judges, school board members, sheriff, etc.)

Copyright © 2016 Dominion Voting Inc. All Rights Reserved

SAMPLE BALLOT

White

City of Neenah Ald. Dist. 2, Ward 9

Ballot ID: 6081

Official Ballot
Presidential Preference Vote and Nonpartisan Office
April 5, 2016

Notice to voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initiated by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initiated by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials.)

General Instructions	Presidential Preference Vote	Judicial
<p>If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: Contact your municipal clerk.)</p> <p>To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ● .</p> <p>To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ● .</p>	<p>President of the United States Vote for 1</p> <p>Republican Party Primary</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marco Rubio</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ben Carson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rand Paul</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mike Huckabee</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim Gilmore</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chris Christie</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rick Santorum</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Carly Fiorina</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jeb Bush</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uninstructed Delegation</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p> <p>Democratic Party Primary</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Martin O'Malley</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uninstructed Delegation</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p>	<p>Justice of the Supreme Court Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> JoAnne F. Kloppenburg</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rebecca G. Bradley</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p> <p>Court of Appeals Judge, District 2 Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Paul F. Reilly</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p> <p>Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3 Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Barbara Hart Key</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p> <p>Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5 Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John A. Jorgensen</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p>
	<p>Special Instructions for Presidential Preference Vote</p> <p>In the Presidential Preference Vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may vote only ONCE. If you vote more than once, your choices will not be counted. <p>You have ONE of 3 choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot. Vote for an uninstructed delegation from Wisconsin to the national convention of the party you have chosen. Write in the name of another person to become the presidential candidate of the party of your choice. <p>Fill in ONE oval in ONE party.</p>	<p>End Presidential Preference Vote</p> <p>Nonpartisan offices begin at top of next column.</p>

Page 1 of 2-sided ballot. Ballot continues on other side. →

Primary Elections

2020 Democratic Candidates



Michael
Bennet



Joe
Biden



Michael
Bloomberg



Pete
Buttigieg



Tulsi
Gabbard



Amy
Klobuchar



Deval
Patrick



Bernie
Sanders



Tom
Steyer



Elizabeth
Warren



Andrew
Yang

-Narrows the field of candidates before an election for office

-Determines which candidate will run in the general election for their party

-Turnout is disappointingly low in primaries

Open Primary Election

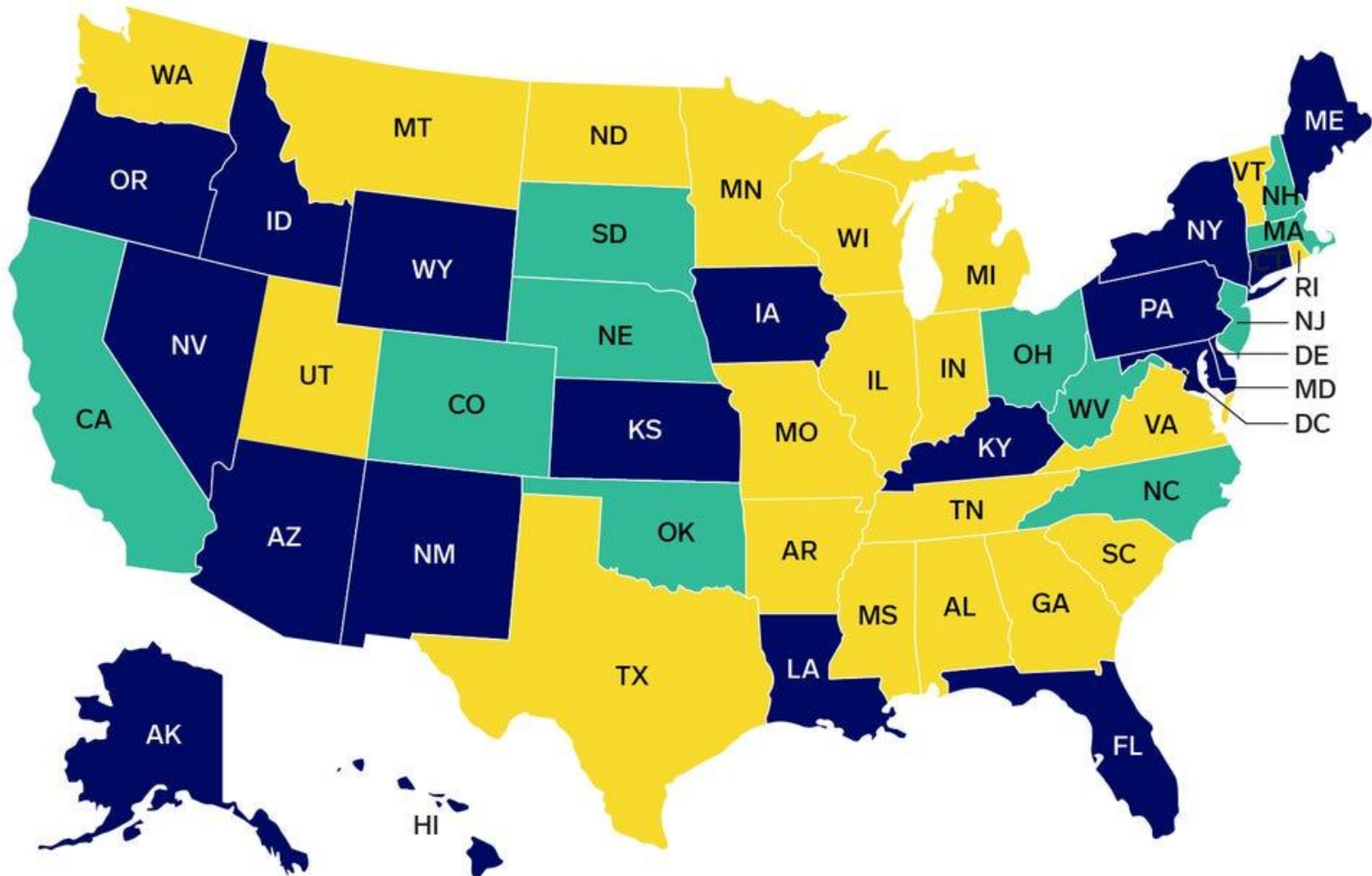
- Does not require voters to be affiliated with a political party to vote
- Allows for opposing party's voters to possibly sabotage the election
- Most states do not use this type of primary for that reason



Closed primary:
only registered party members can vote.

Modified primary:
mostly open, but with important caveats.

Open primary:
anyone can vote regardless of registration, but can only vote in one primary.



*NC: A previously unaffiliated voter can participate in the primary of his or her choice (semi-closed primary)

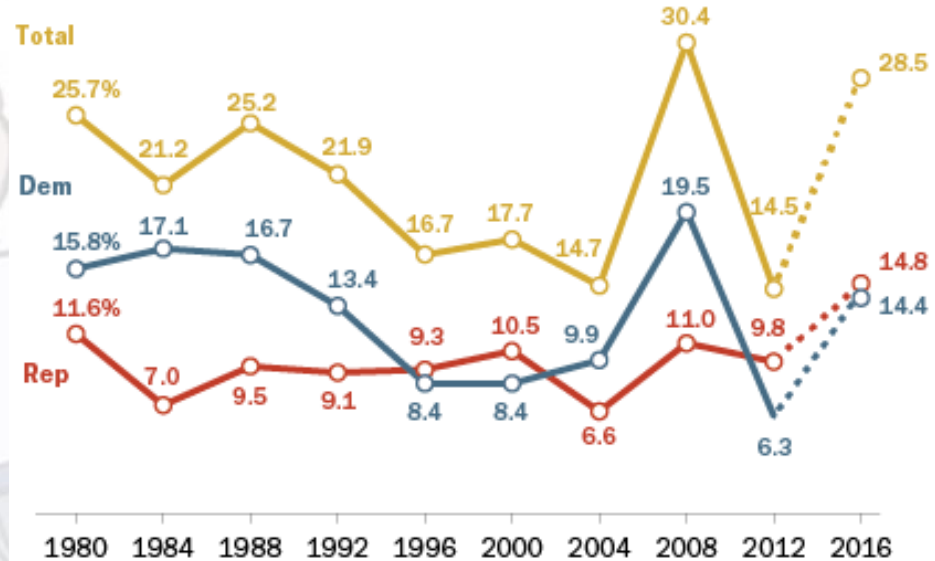
Closed Primary Election

-Only registered members of the party are allowed to vote

-Excludes independent voters and denies them the right to vote until the general election (unless there are nonpartisan offices to elect)

After a long decline, primary turnout rebounds

Votes cast in Democratic and Republican primaries as a share of eligible voters in primary states



Note: Total turnout does not equal the sum of turnout in Democratic and Republican primaries because some states only held primaries for one or the other party. Data from U.S. territories not included. 2016 figures exclude D.C. Democratic primary, to be held June 14. Eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1980-2012 November and January 2016 Current Population Survey data for the share of eligible voters. 1980-2004 and 2013 voting data from "America Votes" (CQ Press); 2008 data from "Vital Statistics on American Politics, 2011-2012" (CQ Press). 2016 data are from state election offices, when available, or as reported by The New York Times.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Blanket Primary Election

- Type of primary election that each voter is allowed to vote for ONE candidate from both parties
- Gives voters maximum choice in selecting candidates
- Variations of this election are known as “top-two” or “top-four” primaries

VOTING IS YOUR SUPER POWER.

ALL VOTERS

SHOULD GET TO USE IT IN EVERY ELECTION.

What an open primary would mean:

- ✓ Greater civic engagement
- ✓ Taxpayers would be able to vote in all elections
- ✓ A healthier democracy

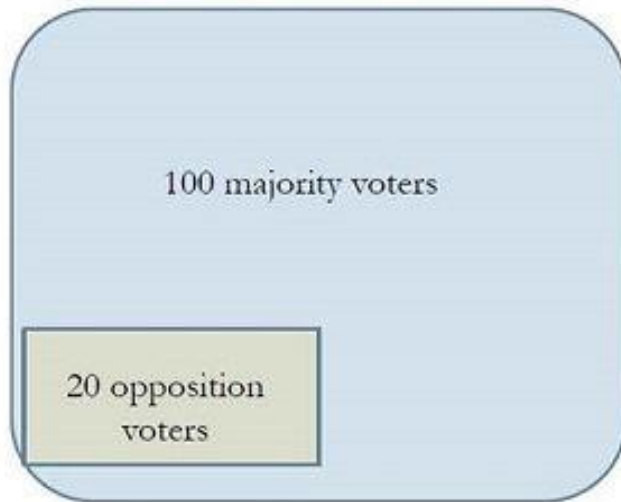
Tell your legislator: Pennsylvanians want an **#OpenPAPrimary.**



District-Based Elections

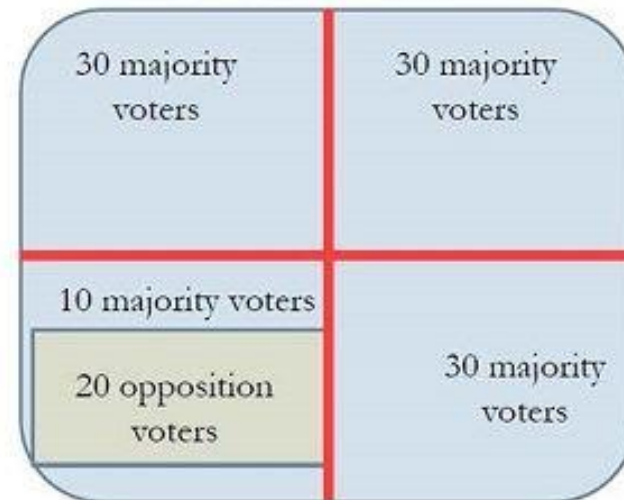
- An alternative to “at-large” voting
- Elections in which candidates run for an office that represents only the voters of a specific district within the jurisdiction

At-Large Election



When one voting bloc significantly outnumbers another, the majority wins every at-large seat.

By-District Election



But if the smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect someone who shares their views to the Council or Board.

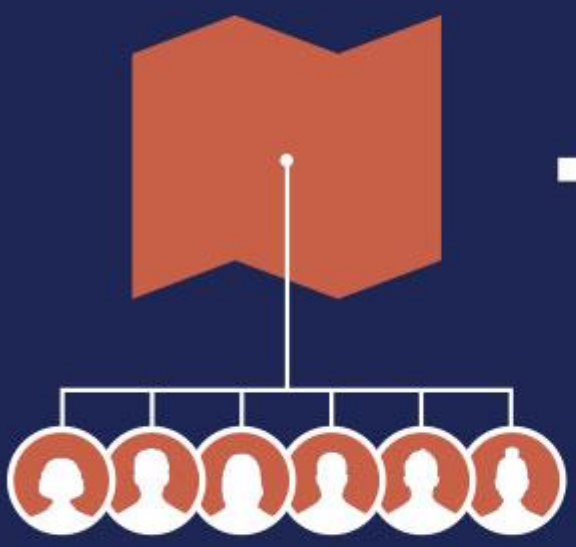
Source: National Demographics Corporation

We the People

CURRENT

AT-LARGE ELECTIONS

COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED BY MAJORITY OF VOTERS CITYWIDE.



COMING APRIL 2022

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED BY MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN EACH DISTRICT.



**Mayor will continue being elected via at-large election.*

Polling Places

-Polling places: precinct-based; when citizens register to vote, they are assigned a precinct and then a polling place close to their residence

-Usually in schools, town halls, public places

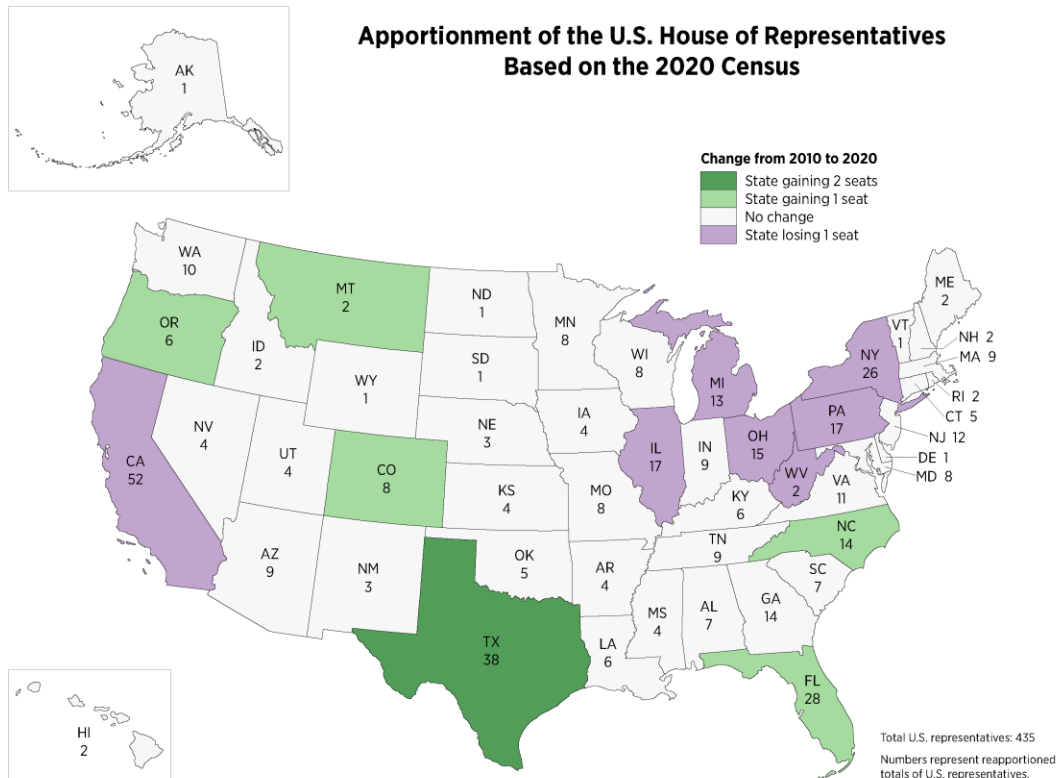
-Open early and close late

-Strict rules exist about electioneering within a certain distance of polling places



The Regional Shift

- Reapportionment: process of reallocating seats in the House of Representatives every 10 years on the basis of the results of the census
- Redistricting: process of redrawing these new boundaries; done by state legislatures



Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering: drawing different maps for electoral districts produces different outcomes

The act of politicians manipulating the redrawing of legislative district lines

-Redistricting: redrawing the boundaries that separate districts

-Can be done in order to help one party win extra seats (a partisan gerrymander), make incumbents of both parties safer (an incumbent-protection gerrymander) or target particular incumbents who have fallen out of favor

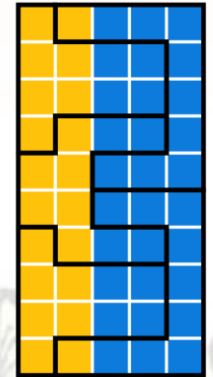
-Bipartisan redistricting commissions, independent redistricting commissions, and citizen redistricting commission are often seen as the solution to gerrymandered districts

Disproportionate Outcomes "gerrymandering"

50 Precincts
60% Blue
40% Yellow



5 DISTRICTS
5 Blue
0 Yellow
BLUE
WINS ALL



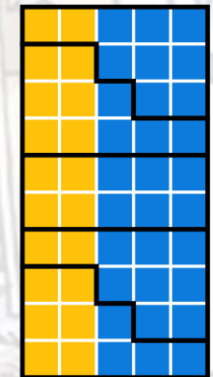
5 DISTRICTS
3 Yellow
2 Blue
YELLOW WINS
MAJORITY

Proportionate Outcomes

50 Precincts
are to be
apportioned
into
5 districts,
10 precincts
per district.



5 DISTRICTS
3 Blue
2 Yellow



5 DISTRICTS
3 Blue
2 Yellow

Blue and yellow win in
proportion to their voting

General Election

- The final election of candidates for national, state, or local office
- General elections are in contrast to a primary election, which is used either to narrow the field of candidates for a given elective office or to determine the nominees for political parties in advance of a general election
- In some rare cases, some elections may occur at irregular times, such as to elect a replacement for a seat vacated due to death, resignation, or removal from office



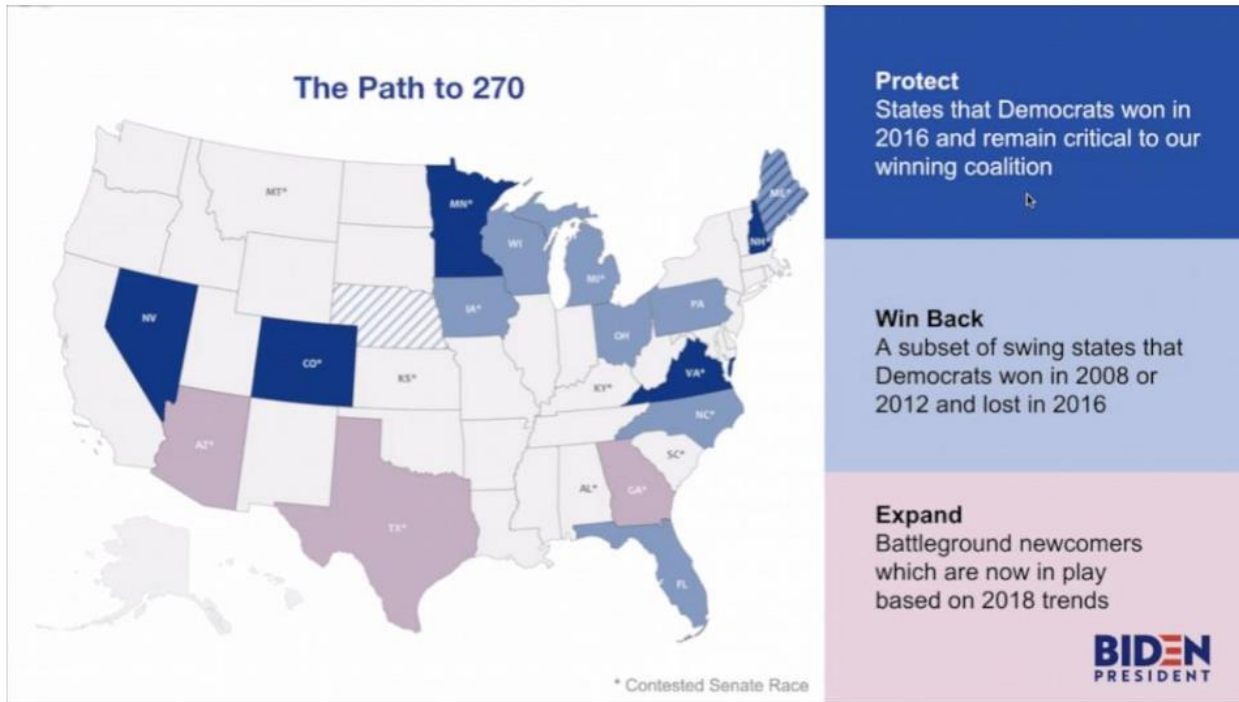
General Elections

- Elections are controlled by local Boards of Elections
- General elections are held the Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November (TAFMIN)
- Winning by **plurality**: winning the most votes; usually when there are more than two candidates; the amount doesn't have to be over 50 percent, just the highest amount
- Winning by **majority**: requires getting more than half of the votes; if no candidate receives a majority, the party will hold a runoff primary
- Most offices hold elections that use the popular vote to decide (plurality) most elections
- The majority of electoral votes (270) determines the office of the presidency



The Electoral College

- Electors cast the official votes for presidency based on the popular vote in each state
- The framers of the Constitution worried average voters would not be able to directly choose wise leaders
- States choose the electors
- “Winner-Take-All” system gives more emphasis to states with higher populations (many of these are considered “battleground states”)
- The efficacy of the Electoral College today is in debate



📷 Joe Biden 2020 presidential campaign

A map from a Biden campaign presentation is seen here.

How the Electoral College Works

- A state's "slate of electors" is equal to the amount of House of Representatives and Senators they are apportioned (D.C. gets 3 – 23rd Amendment)
- Winner of the popular vote typically gets ALL the Electoral College votes
- EC members vote in December, and votes are reported by the vice president in January
- If no candidate gets 270 votes (a majority), the House of Representatives votes for president, with each state getting ONE vote
- Senate chooses the VP

Previous Close Calls

Four times in U.S. history, the candidate who won the popular vote lost the election. In 1824, the House decided the election because no candidate won a majority of electoral votes.

✓ Elected president

**One D.C. elector abstained.

1824

John Quincy Adams ✓
Andrew Jackson
Henry Clay
William H. Crawford

POPULAR VOTE

30.9%
41.3
13.1
11.2

ELECTORAL VOTE

84
99
37
41



Harrison

1876

Rutherford B. Hayes ✓
Samuel J. Tilden

48.0%
51.0

185
184

1888

Benjamin Harrison ✓
Grover Cleveland

47.8%
48.6

233
168



Gore

2000

George W. Bush ✓
Al Gore

47.8%
48.4

271
266**

Progressive Reforms in Voting

Initiative: citizens draft a bill or amendment (a “measure”), which they then propose by petition; if the petition receives sufficient support, the measure is then placed on the ballot and can be enacted into law by a direct vote of citizens

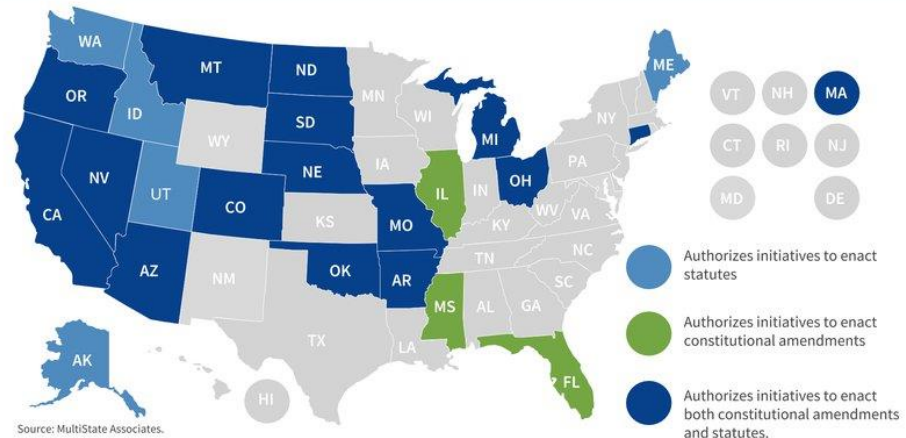
*Think “citizens have taken the initiative to add it to the ballot for a vote”

Referendum: allows voters to approve or repeal an act; if the legislature passes a law that voters do not approve of, they may gather signatures to demand a popular vote on the law; during the time between passage and the popular vote, the law may not take effect

*Think the govt is “referring” back to the citizens for their vote on a law

Direct Democracy in the States: Initiatives

States that authorize citizen use of the initiative process to enact laws or constitutional amendments.



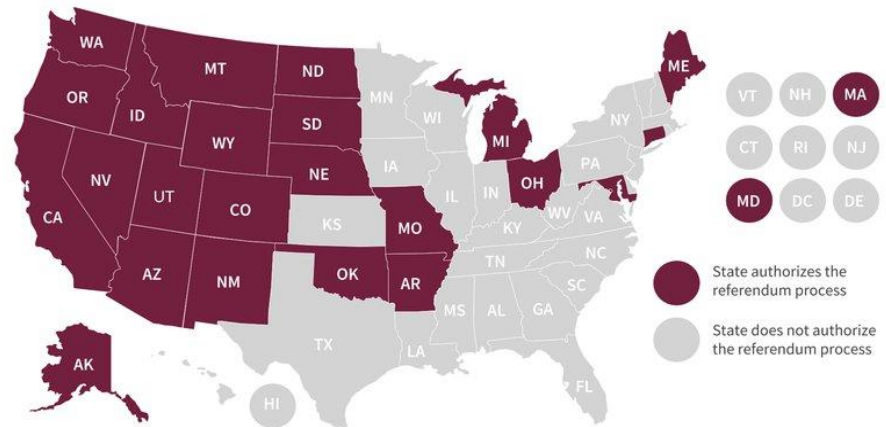
Source: MultiState Associates.

Citizens can place initiatives on the ballot in 23 states. In 20 states this authorization is limited to statutes, 18 states authorize initiatives to amend the state constitution, and 15 states authorize initiatives for both statutes and constitutional amendments.

MULTISTATE

Direct Democracy in the States: Referendum

States that authorize citizen use of the referendum process to repeal state laws.



Source: MultiState Associates.

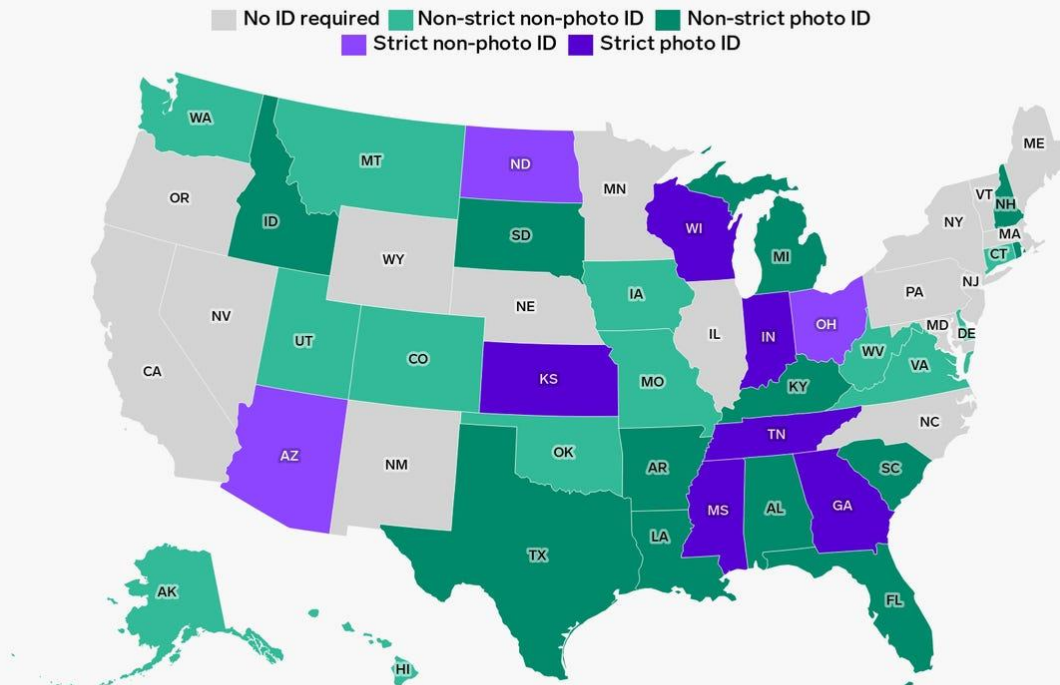
Citizens in 23 states can repeal state laws via the referendum process.

MULTISTATE

Casting Your Vote

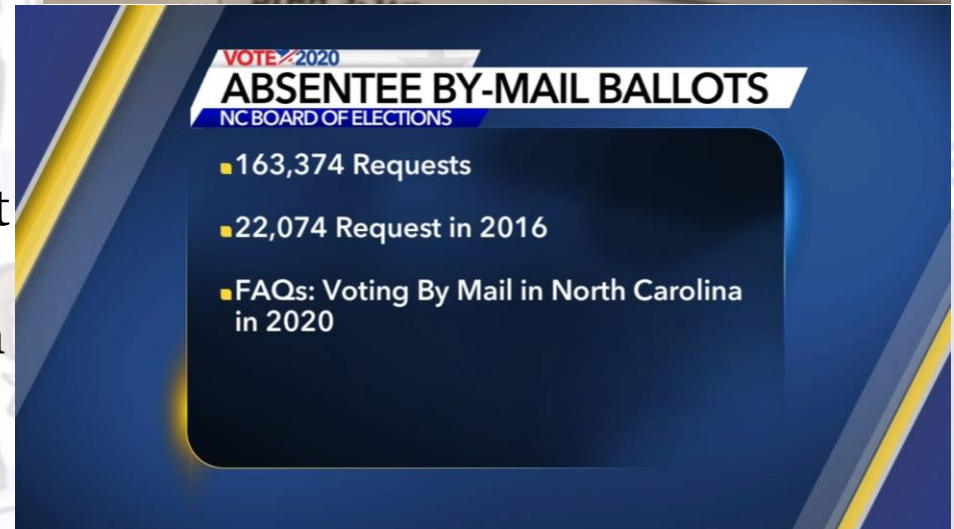
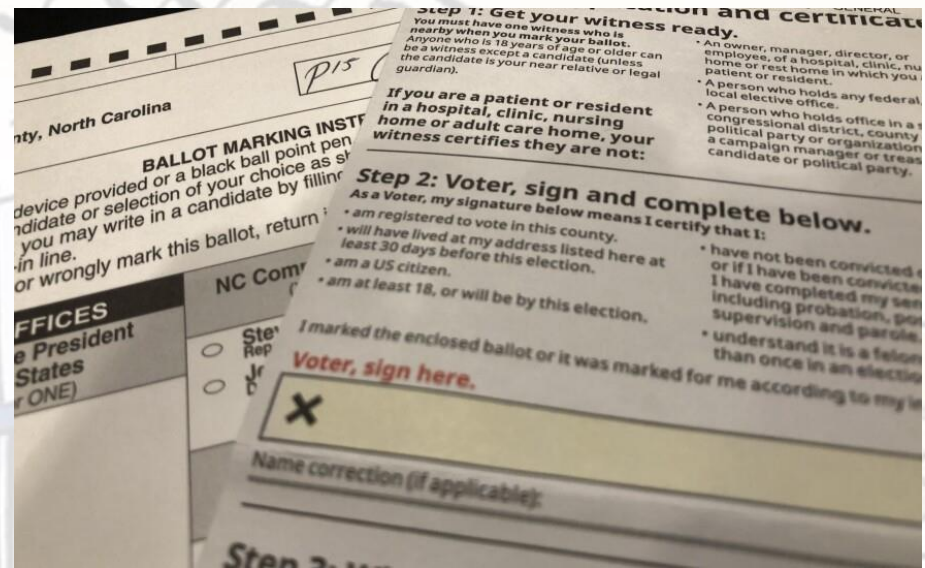
- Depending on the state, identification may be checked against the list of registered voters
- Ballot construction: paper ballots*, lever machines, punch cards, computer*
 - “Butterfly Ballot” - opposing candidates listed across from each other instead of vertically; has confused people in the past
- Exit polls: attempt to predict the winners before the ballots are counted by asking voters while they exit the polling place for whom they voted

Voter ID laws by state



Absentee Ballots and Early Voting






- Absentee ballots can be requested if a voter will be out of town on election day
- Many use absentee ballots that are elderly or disabled and find it difficult to get to the polling place
- Military personnel, college students who will not be around their polling place at the time of the election (NC deadline to request is 5pm the day before election day)
- Must request one from local election board online before the election (request time varies according to state – NC is to request 5pm the Tuesday before election day)
- Early voting: new method offered to alleviate crowds and traffic; must show on certain days to your polling place at certain times



Methods of Voting

- Straight ticket: voting only for one political party
- Split ticket: voting for candidates from either party
- Write-In voting: writing in the name of someone who isn't on the ballot

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 Ottawa County, Michigan Allendale Charter Township, Precinct 1

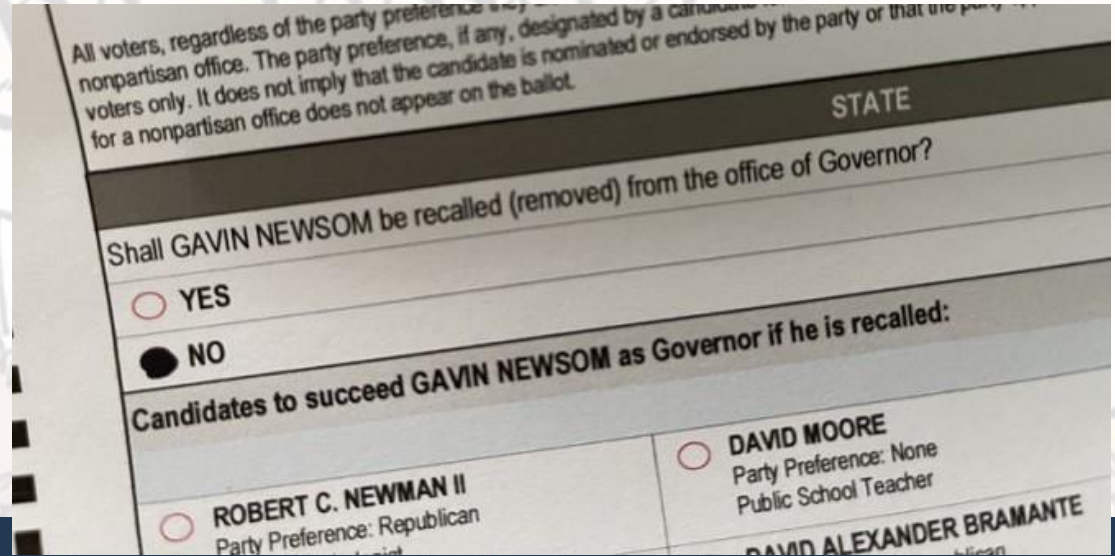
PARTISAN SECTION		STATE BOARDS	STATE BOARDS	
STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET Vote for not more than 1		MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for not more than 2	GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2	
 Republican Party <input type="radio"/>	Tom McMillin <small>Republican</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Michael J. Busuito <small>Republican</small>	<input type="radio"/>
	Nikki Snyder <small>Republican</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Kimberly Shmina <small>Republican</small>	<input type="radio"/>
 Democratic Party <input type="radio"/>	Ish Ahmed <small>Democratic</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Yvette McElroy Anderson <small>Democratic</small>	<input type="radio"/>
	John Austin <small>Democratic</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Mark Gaffney <small>Democratic</small>	<input type="radio"/>
 Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/>	Scotty Boman <small>Libertarian</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Bhagwan Dashairya <small>Libertarian</small>	<input type="radio"/>
	Bill Hall <small>Libertarian</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Al Seder <small>Libertarian</small>	<input type="radio"/>
 U.S. Taxpayers Party <input type="radio"/>	Karen Adams <small>U.S. Taxpayers</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Robert Gale <small>U.S. Taxpayers</small>	<input type="radio"/>
	Douglas Levesque <small>U.S. Taxpayers</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Marc Joseph Sosnowski <small>U.S. Taxpayers</small>	<input type="radio"/>
 Green Party <input type="radio"/>	Derek M. Grigsby <small>Green</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Margaret Guttshall <small>Green</small>	<input type="radio"/>
	Sherry A. Wells <small>Green</small>	<input type="radio"/>	Fran Shor <small>Green</small>	<input type="radio"/>

Special Elections

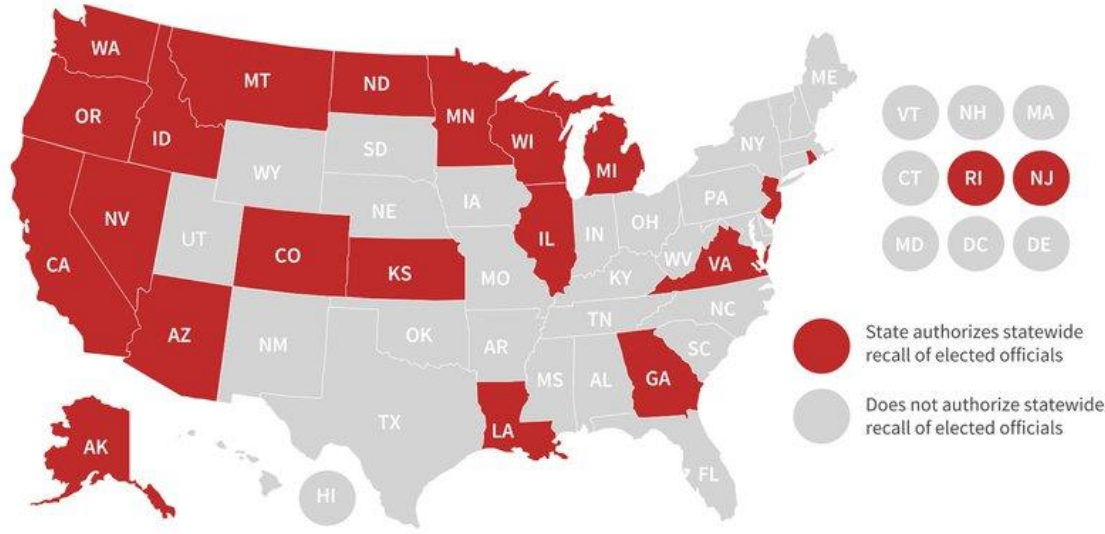
-Recounts: when the results are too close by a thin margin, recounts can be demanded by public officials

-Runoff election: a second election held to determine a winner when no candidate in the first election met the required threshold for victory; can be held for both primary elections and general elections (NC and 9 other states allow runoff elections)

-Recall elections: some states allow elections to vote to remove a public official from office →



Direct Democracy in the States: Recall
States that authorize citizen use of the recall process for statewide elected officials.



Source: MultiState Associates.

Citizens in 20 states may recall certain statewide elected officials.