

What's Wrong with This Picture?

Our democracy “by, for, and of the people” permits “the people” to influence national politics once every two years, in exactly three ways:

- **The Presidential Election:** You battle it out with 120 million other voters over a choice between two career politicians you've only heard about on TV. Third parties or other choices aren't viable, and your vote only really matters if you live in a swing state.
- **The Senate:** Because each state gets two senators regardless of population, your vote carries 57 times more weight if you live in Wyoming than if you live in California.¹
- **The House:** Representatives get to design their districts around their agenda, so your vote only matters if you live in one of the 4% of districts that are at all competitive.²



But you probably already knew these things – which is why only 59% of eligible citizens actually voted in the “record turnout” 2004 election, and why the U.S. historically ranks in the *bottom 20%* of democratic nations for voter turnout.³

Building a Better Alternative

Other electoral systems are possible – systems that make every vote count and give people real choices. Other countries already using such systems in Europe and elsewhere routinely see voter turnouts above 80% as a result. But Americans are naturally wary of meddling with a system that has “more-or-less” worked for over 200 years and has served as a role model for democracy throughout the world. We want to “test-drive” anything new and unfamiliar before committing. Fair enough.

So let's build and test-drive a new system of democracy.

Individual Representation

Join us in forming a completely neutral and nonpartisan organization designed along the principles of *individual representation*:

1. Every voter should have an *individual* choice of whether to participate in the democratic process directly and actively, or indirectly through representation.
2. Voters who choose representation should have an *unrestricted* choice of candidates to represent their interests, not a choice “between tweedledum and tweedledee.”
3. Every person should have an equal vote; no one may be disenfranchised for any reason.

We will not only serve as a model for how a democracy can and *should* be run, but in the short term we will provide a public forum for constructive political debate, and a democratic, *non-financial means* by which people can support the activists and causes they care about as an alternative to privately-funded, mass-media propaganda campaigns.

www.indrep.org

¹ Based on Voting-Eligible Population 2004, U.S. Elections Project, George Mason University.

² *Election 2004 by the Numbers*, Rob Richie, Center for Voting and Democracy. November 5, 2004.

³ Turnout in all elections 1945-1998, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, www.idea.int.