

*When Elections Go Bad, The Law Of Democracy And The Presidential Election Of , Revised (University Casebook Series) [Samuel Issacharoff, Pamela Karlan, Richard Pildes] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The winner of the Iowa caucus in , which kicks off the primary season, was Rick Santorum remember him? Four years before that, the leading national candidate was Rudy Giuliani and the Iowa caucus was clinched by Mike Huckabee. It is obvious to most polling experts that such polls have no serious predictive value—at least not until a few days closer to the actual voting—yet the media and an overabundance of political pundits announce the results of numerous such polls on an almost hourly basis every day as if they have some substantive value. What the Polling Experts Say We talked to polling experts Al Tuchfarber and Cliff Zukin to explain why such polls are so unreliable and to set the record straight on pre-presidential election survey methodologies and results. Tuchfarber is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Cincinnati and was the founder and director of the UC Institute for Policy Research from to Zukin is professor of political science and public policy, Eagleton Institute of Politics and Edward J. Are the Polls Predicting the Winners? Telephone surveys frequently use random digit dialing RDD to ensure distribution by geography, or registration based sampling RBS to draw from public lists of registered voters. Both of these methods miss a substantial portion of the electorate. This makes cell phone surveying more expensive than landline surveying, which, in turn, causes some surveying organizations to skimp on the number of cell phone interviews. Additionally, there is no way of knowing who actually answers a robo-poll. Timing and field procedures also come into play, along with question ordering and wording. Polls taken over different dates field period , such as over one day or seven days, for instance, yield different results. An event might happen at any given time during a field period, impacting polls and thus making them harder to predict. In addition, the ways in which questions are asked, as well as what order they are in, affect poll results. Weighting uses basic math to identify probable voters and their common characteristics based on census data, but it is far from an exact science. However, this is an expensive process overall. That is why there are more of these Internet opt-in polls with non-probability samples out there because they cost almost nothing to do. Zukin also mentioned Monmouth as well as the Quinnipiac University polls. Finally, we need to keep in mind that the results of the Iowa caucus vote, as well as the New Hampshire primary vote on Feb. Super Tuesday this year, when the largest number of states hold primary elections, is March 1.

Chapter 2 : Local Roads May Go From Bad To Worse Without Gas Taxes

The Republican mayor of Yonkers, Philip Amicone, called for a new election because, he said, the close vote made the true winner unknowable. His agnostic gloom vanished once most of the contested.

If Elections go bad, Rise on Nov 3. Super Wednesday Call to Action! A time for popular outrage and widespread non-cooperation if Bush is elected, if the elections are canceled, or if there is overt election fraud again. By mobilizing the day after the election we are opening up a new political space to define democracy as grassroots and participatory. No matter who wins, we will go beyond voting to build pro-democracy movements in the heart of the empire. America stands at a turning point as a nation and a culture. Increasingly the democratic tendencies within the American tradition are being undermined. The symptoms are all around. Our media has become a corporate driven propaganda machine, our electoral system is deeply flawed and undemocratic, and our history of mass movements and popular struggle has been erased from our history books. The time has come for a clear grassroots action and media campaign to expose the truth: America cannot be both an Empire and a Democracy. Voting is important, but it is not enough. If we want to build a true democracy inside the United States we need to go beyond merely voting at the ballot box and vote with our voices, our time and our feet as we educate, organize, and march. We must vote with our hands as we build sustainable community alternatives, and vote with our imaginations as we show that a better world truly is possible, and it is our responsibility to create it. The opportunity and challenge over the next year is to proactively define democracy. What does democracy look like in our communities? In our daily lives? What does it mean to lose it? We must begin by showing people the truth that America is becoming less and less of a democracy and that its up to "We the People" to build a real democracy from the ground up. We will show that real democracy is not merely as a choice between 2 political parties that, despite some significant differences, have a great deal in common. Rather it is about community empowerment and grassroots mobilization the help us reclaim our lives. Democracy Beyond the Ballot Box! What if on the day after the next presidential election people from all walks of life across America mobilized in their communities to go beyond voting and articulate our "Beyond Voting" vision of grassroots, movement based democracy? The mobilization could provide an umbrella for a wide range of events: By mobilizing for the day after the election we are opening up a new political space to define democracy as participatory grassroots mobilization in direct contrast to the framework of empire. Much like March 20th , the Day After could be an important day of massive groundswell across the country. If there is style electoral corruption, this mobilization could provide key infrastructure to productively harness mass outrage and expose the inconsistencies in the election. What can you organize in your community? Joining the Global Democracy Movement These are times of both urgent crisis and great opportunity. A slogan from the first Rio Earth Summit in re-emerged at the 10th anniversary follow-up held in in Johannesburg: Given the massive levels of consumption by the US, the tendency towards violent unilateralism, and the increasing withdrawal of the U. The world is anxiously awaiting social movements within the U. To do so we must build a movement that can go beyond voting!

Chapter 3 : Download [PDF] When Elections Go Bad Free Online | New Books in Politics

When Elections Go Bad: The Law of Democracy and the Presidential Election of by Samuel Issacharoff, Pamela S. Karlan, Richard H. Pildes Two chapters from the authors' law school casebook, *The Law of Democracy: Legal Structures of the Political Process* (2d ed.), have been modified in order to stand alone.

Pinterest Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Phoenix, Arizona. To retain their places there, they had to turn to the voter every few years to top up their legitimacy. Elections became a battle fought out in the media for the favour of voters. The passions aroused among the populace diverted attention from a far more fundamental emotion, an increasing irritation with anything and everything pertaining to politics. Under this model, while elections certainly exist and can change governments, public electoral debate is a tightly controlled spectacle, managed by rival teams of professionals expert in the techniques of persuasion, and considering a small range of issues selected by those teams. The mass of citizens plays a passive, quiescent part, responding only to the signals given them. The Italy of Silvio Berlusconi came closest to fitting this definition of the post-democratic state but elsewhere too we have seen processes that tend in that direction. Since the end of the 20th century, citizens have started looking like their 19th-century predecessors. Because civil society has become weaker, a gulf has opened up again between the state and the individual. After the rise of the political parties, the introduction of universal suffrage, the rise and fall of organised civil society and the dominance of commercial media, another factor has now been added: At the beginning of the 21st century, citizens could follow the political theatre, minute by minute, on radio, television or the internet, but today they can respond to it from second to second and mobilise others. The culture of immediate reporting now has instant feedback, resulting in even more of a cacophony. The work of the public figure, and especially the elected politician, is not made easier by any of this. He or she can immediately see whether new proposals appeal to the citizen, and indeed just how many people the citizen can whip up. New technology gives people a voice, but the nature of this new political involvement makes the electoral system creak at the joints all the more. For radio and television, national politics has become a daily soap opera, and while editors determine to some extent the framing, the script and the typesetting, politicians, with varying degrees of success, try to slant things this way or that. This collective hysteria has made election fever permanent and has serious consequences for the workings of democracy. Efficiency suffers under the electoral calculus, legitimacy under the continual need to distinguish oneself, while time and again, the electoral system ensures that the long term and the common interest lose out to the short term and party interests. Elections were once invented to make democracy possible, but in these circumstances they seem to be a hindrance. Since we have reduced democracy to selecting representatives, and reduced representative democracy to mean simply voting, a valuable system is now mired in deep difficulties. Winning the next election has become more important than fulfilling the promises made in the last. Making the best of the system we have is becoming increasingly difficult. What kind of democracy is appropriate to an era of fast, decentralised communication? How should the government deal with all those articulate citizens who stand shouting from the sidelines? For the media, politics is now a soap opera. The most popular politicians are those who succeed in altering the script Imagine having to develop a system today that would express the will of the people. Would it really be a good idea to have them all queue up at polling stations every four or five years with a bit of card in their hands and go into a dark booth to put a mark next to names on a list, names of people about whom restless reporting had been going on for months in a commercial environment that profits from restlessness? People care deeply about their communities and want to be heard. But a much better way to let the people speak than through a referendum is to return to the central principle of Athenian democracy: In ancient Athens, the large majority of public functions were assigned by lot. Renaissance states such as Venice and Florence worked on the same basis and experienced centuries of political stability. With sortition, you do not ask everyone to vote on an issue few people really understand, but you draft a random sample of the population and make sure they come to the grips with the subject matter in order to take a sensible decision. A cross-section of society that is informed can act more coherently than an entire society that is uninformed. Experiments with sortition have been successfully applied in the US,

Australia, and the Netherlands. The most innovative country so far is certainly Ireland. In December , a constitutional convention began work in order to revise several articles of the constitution of Ireland. Its members were not just a committee of MPs working behind closed doors, but a mixture of elected politicians and ordinary people: This group met one weekend per month for more than a year. An independent research bureau put together the random group of 66 citizens, taking account of age, sex and place of birth. The diversity this produced was helpful when it came to discussing such subjects as same-sex marriage, the rights of women or the ban on blasphemy in the current constitution. However, they did not do all this alone: The decisions made by the convention did not have the force of law; the recommendations first had to be passed by the two chambers of the Irish parliament, then by the government and then in a referendum. By talking to a diverse cross-section of Irish society, politicians could get further than they could have by just talking to each other. By exchanging views with elected officials, citizens could give much more relevant input than they could have in an election or a referendum. What if this procedure had been applied in the UK last week? What if a random sample of citizens had a chance to learn from experts, listen to proposals, talk to each other and engage with politicians? What if a mixed group of elected and drafted citizens had thought the matter through? What if the rest of society could have had a chance to follow and contribute to their deliberations? What if the proposal this group would have come up with had been subjected to public scrutiny? Do we think a similarly reckless decision would have been taken?

Chapter 4 : portland imc - - If Elections go bad, Rise on Nov

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But when the results were tallied, he won by a mere 2. The inaccurate polling provided one more target amid a flurry of second-guessing Wednesday over a race that was far more suspenseful than most political strategists had expected. Already, many operatives are asking why the numbers were so skewed “ and whether they helped shape the outcome. But McAuliffe pollster Geoff Garin said he never believed the public polling. His numbers always showed it would be a close race. His final poll, finished last Thursday, had McAuliffe up three points, 45 percent to 42 percent, with Libertarian Robert Sarvis pulling 5 percent. McAuliffe, 48 percent; Cuccinelli, Most public polls showed a much larger margin for McAuliffe. Turnout drops off dramatically in off-year elections, and pollsters say it is difficult to forecast how many and what kind of people show up. About 42 percent of eligible voters cast ballots Tuesday. But he noted that the exit polling Tuesday showed that African Americans made up 20 percent of the electorate, and his final poll assumed it would be 15 percent. He won white voters by closer to 20 points. That kind of thing pretty much happened in all of the polls. At the end of September, even before the shutdown started, Cuccinelli trailed in the high single digits in his own survey. A poll for the Republican Governors Association conducted in the middle of October, just before the shutdown ended, had Cuccinelli down Worse, he was only winning whites by 3 points and had locked down just 57 percent of soft Republicans. To be sure, there were some outliers. But most serious analysts dismissed these numbers as unrealistic. The McAuliffe campaign said that they got a bump during the shutdown after leading two to four points through the summer. But then it receded. He does not think blacks actually made up the same proportion of the electorate as last year when President Barack Obama was on the ballot.

Chapter 5 : When polls go bad - POLITICO

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Round One In the mid-April elections that came after the collapse last January of the center-left government led by Romano Prodi, the center-right coalition led by media magnate, billionaire and staunch Bush ally Silvio Berlusconi not only beat out former Rome Mayor and leader of the newly formed Democratic Party, Walter Veltroni, but also with a very comfortable 9-point lead. By participating in the more centrist Prodi government, the leftist parties had hoped to push it to the left, but instead ended up alienating their base. The smaller parties of the far right fared no better. There has been a move over the past years away from a the fragmented system of numerous small parties forming coalitions that went from center to far left and right toward more of a two party system. This less fragmented system resulting from the elections has been praised by many, as the sprawling coalitions made it difficult to govern: Italy has had 62 governments since WWII. However, others are concerned this lack of representation for large slices of society will lead to further radicalization of the extra parliamentary left and right.

Round Two The political elections had been combined with already scheduled administrative elections for what was dubbed Election Day, where 2 regional, 9 provincial, 71 city governments were on the line. The majority of these contests were settled in run-off elections held this past Sunday and Monday. Prior to elections, the center-left governed 42 cities and the center-right The situation was inverted, with the center-right now governing 43 and the center-left But the biggest defeat by far took place in the capital. Just three days after the Festa di Liberazione, which celebrates the liberation of Italy from Nazi-Fascism, Rome elected a mayor who began his political career in the neo-fascist MSI party. Monday evening, as the results became clear, supporters gathered on the Campidoglio, seat of the city government, to celebrate the results. Photos of young men with arms stretched out in the saluto romano, or fascist salute, covered the newspapers the next day. Alemanno and Fini are trying to distance themselves from their neo-fascist history, but those photos will remain in the minds of Romans for some time. And just as the national campaign was run on fear of immigrants, so it was in Rome. It would be comforting to chalk all this up to electronic voting. However, Italians vote by marking a paper ballot with a pencil; the ballots are then counted by hand in front of observers from all parties. And while Berlusconi did have a distinct advantage as the owner of three television networks and several newspapers and periodicals, Italy also has a par condicio law, which guarantees equal time to all political parties, so television viewers heard from everyone from the far left to the far right. The Silver Lining Against this bleak backdrop, a ray of hope shines through. In the northern city of Vicenza, the citizen activists of the Presidio permanente No Dal Molin, who have been working for two years to block construction of a second US military base in their historic city, decided just weeks before the elections to form a municipal list with no party affiliation. Cinzia Bottene, who has become and icon of the movement and one of its the leaders from the start, ran as candidate for mayor, and 40 others from the Presidio as candidates for city council. As with all decisions made by the movement, the discussions on whether or not to form the list took place at public assemblies at the Presidio, or permanent encampment, headquarters for the movement. Not all were in favor, with some concerned about mixing movement and politics, but in the end the argument that the movement, which has been experimenting an open participatory democracy for some time, should take that practice to the local government won out. The Vicenza Libera list had an opportunity to test the waters in late February when they collected signatures in one day “ they were hoping for “ in support of the movement after several exponents had been placed under investigation for non violent activism against the new military base. In the short time Vicenza Libera had to campaign, they focused on three main points: The issue of the environment was at the forefront just days after presenting the list when a pipeline, which supplies the US air base at Aviano with kerosene from the port of Livorno and the US base at Camp Darby, broke near Vicenza, contaminating the rivers Astichello and Bacchiglione. The movement never took a backseat to the campaign. In fact, on the last day for campaigning, the activists and candidates of the Presidio traveled to Ravenna and the offices of the cooperative CMC, which

had just been awarded the Euro million contract to build the new military base in Vicenza. The fact that U. Naval Facilities Engineering Command chose to award the deal to CMC, a cooperative close to the parties of the center left, did not come as a surprise. What better way to guarantee bi-partisan support! As the parties and lists of the right started making alliances for the run-off, Variati began to court Vicenza Libera, knowing just how valuable their votes would be. Variati, a candidate of the Partito Democratico, which has already said the question of the base is closed, had been speaking out against the base, and long before the election campaign, in particular the less than democratic manner in which the issue had been handled. Vicenza Libera had made their position clear from the start, with no intention of joining forces with any political party, nor accepting any political appointments in exchange for support. Adding that the only way for him to gain their support would be to take a strong stand against the base and commit to opposing the base if elected. A delegation from Vicenza Libera met with Variati. He made three pledges: Variati is very familiar with the determination of the movement to hold politicians to account, so there is hope that this is not simply an empty campaign promise. Vicenza Libera asked their supporters to vote for Variati. And it did the trick. In an unexpected turn of events, Variati won, The main square of Vicenza filled with celebration, and the predominant flag was that of No Dal Molin. Cinzia Bottene now finds herself in a somewhat unusual situation. But she was voted in because of her unwavering position against the base and commitment to represent the citizens of Vicenza, making the issue of where she is seated a minor detail. But the celebration came only after issuing a press release calling on Variati to respect the pact and oppose the base. The following day, it was back to work on what everyone realizes is a struggle far from over. Stephanie Westbrook is a U. She is active in the peace and social justice movements in Italy. She can be reached at: [Read other articles by Stephanie](#). This article was posted on Saturday, May 3rd, at 5:

Chapter 6 : Barack Obama: Trump is 'capitalizing on resentment' - CNNPolitics

When Elections Go Bad: The Law of Democracy and the Presidential Election of by Pamela S. Karlan, Samuel Issacharoff, Richard H. Pildes Paperback, Pages, Published

Trump capitalizing on resentments He is just capitalizing on resentment that politicians have been fanning for years. A fear, an anger that is rooted in our past but is also borne in our enormous upheavals that have taken place in your brief lifetimes. We are supposed to stand up to discrimination and we are sure as heck to stand up clearly and unequivocally to Nazi sympathizers," Obama said, an apparent rebuke of Trump telling reporters after the deadly white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia that there was good "fine people on both sides. I am not making that up. That is not hypothetical. At one point, a seemingly exasperated Obama openly questioned what happened with the Republican Party, noting that one of their early organizing principles was standing up to communism. It is a vision that says the protection of our power and those that back us is all the matters even when it hurts the country. Obama joked at the outset of the speech that he needed time away to stay married to his wife, Michelle Obama, and to spend time with his daughters. But his decision to step back into the political fray also comes at a time when Democrats, through the midterm elections, could deliver their most potent referendum on Trump to date. Obama viewed the speech as arguably his most important of the year, his aides said, and was editing the remarks up until he touched down in Illinois. Obama will soon take the remarks on the road, too. On Saturday, he will headline a rally for a handful of Democratic congressional candidates in California and next Thursday an event for Richard Cordray, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Ohio. A series of former presidents have avoided critiquing their successors, and Obama has attempted to keep that tradition since he left office in January Trump has not honored that tradition and has shown little to no regard for his predecessors, regularly bashing them on Twitter, to the media and at rallies. And the two have not talked since the inauguration in , sources told CNN. I am being serious here. That is not how our democracy is supposed to work. But Republicans also said they were eager to see Obama back in the news, arguing he is the best weapon they have to motivate their base. Mocking them for ignoring the principles they touted during his presidency. That speech looked to be more inspiring, and that is exactly what Obama tried to do at the close of his remarks on Friday. I believe you will help lead us in the right direction and I will be right there with you every step of the way.

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That was the message in my judgment delivered earlier this month by Fresno Transportation Authority Executive Director Mike Leonardo to an advisory group focused on local roads. He did nothing more than present the facts about the current status of the local and state road systems, and the financial and political pressures they face. But the facts were all Leonardo needed: The roads in the cities and unincorporated areas of Fresno County are facing more than a half-billion dollars in unmet maintenance needs. The state economy fifth biggest in the world depends on a strong system of roads. The benefits of SB 1 are threatened by an attempt to effectively repeal the legislation. Among other things, this initiative would require majority voter approval for any future fuel or vehicle taxes. Everyone complains about the condition of our roads. Far fewer understand that you get what you pay for. Getting from Point A to Point B in the easiest and most cost-effective manner has been pivotal to mankind since the dawn of civilization. Needless to say, transportation is a huge topic. Leonardo and committee members inevitably wandered "enthusiastically, I hasten to add" from subpoint to subpoint. Warehouses have always been a big part of that sector. The trend these days is toward moving product as quickly as possible from warehouse to store or, on an increasing scale, the residential doorstep. In a nutshell, a PCI number of 66 puts a road system at a critical turning point. Fixing terrible roads is much more expensive than maintaining decent roads. Officials are forced to spend scarce resources on maintaining the decent roads, leaving the terrible roads to their fate. And, of course, there are many people who, due to circumstances, must use those terrible roads. We have another form of social inequality. In the end, though, the July 12 meeting centered on the need to take action. I suspect they were preaching to the choir. More immediately, committee members wanted to know what transportation advocates could do about the SB 1 repeal effort. Committee members understood all too well the dynamic at play: No one likes higher taxes. Life is full of hard choices. However, Leonardo added, he can make the same presentation to public groups that he delivered to the Measure C citizens advisory committee.

Chapter 8 : Report: Florida Elections Official Mixed Bad Ballots with Good Ones

The Florida elections official tasked with counting votes in Broward County accidentally mixed up more than a dozen invalid ballots with nearly valid ballots. Broward County's three-person canvassing board discovered Friday night that Broward County Board of Elections supervisor Brenda Snipes.

Roman coin depicting election A British election ballot paper, Elections were used as early in history as ancient Greece and ancient Rome , and throughout the Medieval period to select rulers such as the Holy Roman Emperor see imperial election and the pope see papal election. The Raja belonged to the noble Kshatriya varna warrior class , and was typically a son of the previous Raja. However, the gana members had the final say in his elections. After the election the votes were taken out and counted. Such elections were quite common in contemporary societies of the region. The leaves, with candidate names written on them, were put inside a mud pot. To select the committee members, a young boy was asked to take out as many leaves as the number of positions available. This was known as the Kudavolai system. Males, the dominant cultural group in North America and Europe, often dominated the electorate and continue to do so in many countries. The electorate does not generally include the entire population; for example, many countries prohibit those who are under the age of majority from voting, all jurisdictions require a minimum age for voting. In Australia Aboriginal people were not given the right to vote until see referendum entry and in the federal government removed the rights of prisoners to vote a large proportion of which are Aboriginal Australians. Suffrage is typically only for citizens of the country, though further limits may be imposed. However, in the European Union, one can vote in municipal elections if one lives in the municipality and is an EU citizen; the nationality of the country of residence is not required. Campaigners working on posters in Milan , Italy, In some countries, voting is required by law; if an eligible voter does not cast a vote, he or she may be subject to punitive measures such as a fine. In many cases, nomination for office is mediated through preselection processes in organized political parties. In a direct democracy , one type of non-partisan democracy , any eligible person can be nominated. Although elections were used in ancient Athens, in Rome, and in the selection of popes and Holy Roman emperors, the origins of elections in the contemporary world lie in the gradual emergence of representative government in Europe and North America beginning in the 17th century. In some systems no nominations take place at all, with voters free to choose any person at the time of votingâ€”with some possible exceptions such as through a minimum age requirementâ€”in the jurisdiction. In such cases, it is not required or even possible that the members of the electorate be familiar with all of the eligible persons, though such systems may involve indirect elections at larger geographic levels to ensure that some first-hand familiarity among potential electees can exist at these levels i. As far as partisan systems, in some countries, only members of a particular party can be nominated see one-party state. Or, any eligible person can be nominated through a process; thus allowing him or her to be listed. Electoral systems[edit] Electoral systems are the detailed constitutional arrangements and voting systems that convert the vote into a political decision. The first step is to tally the votes, for which various vote counting systems and ballot types are used. Voting systems then determine the result on the basis of the tally. Most systems can be categorized as either proportional or majoritarian. Among the former are party-list proportional representation and additional member system. Among the latter are First Past the Post electoral system relative majority and absolute majority. Many countries have growing electoral reform movements, which advocate systems such as approval voting , single transferable vote , instant runoff voting or a Condorcet method ; these methods are also gaining popularity for lesser elections in some countries where more important elections still use more traditional counting methods. The secret ballot is a relatively modern development, but it is now considered crucial in most free and fair elections, as it limits the effectiveness of intimidation. Scheduling[edit] The nature of democracy is that elected officials are accountable to the people, and they must return to the voters at prescribed intervals to seek their mandate to continue in office. For that reason most democratic constitutions provide that elections are held at fixed regular intervals. In the United States, elections for public offices are typically held between every two and six years in most states and at the federal level, with exceptions for

electoral judicial positions that may have longer terms of office. There is a variety of schedules, for example presidents: Pre-determined or fixed election dates have the advantage of fairness and predictability. However, they tend to greatly lengthen campaigns, and make dissolving the legislature parliamentary system more problematic if the date should happen to fall at time when dissolution is inconvenient. In practice, this means the government remains in power for close to its full term, and choose an election date it calculates to be in its best interests unless something special happens, such as a motion of no-confidence. This calculation depends on a number of variables, such as its performance in opinion polls and the size of its majority. Political campaign

When elections are called, politicians and their supporters attempt to influence policy by competing directly for the votes of constituents in what are called campaigns. Supporters for a campaign can be either formally organized or loosely affiliated, and frequently utilize campaign advertising. It is common for political scientists to attempt to predict elections via Political Forecasting methods. In many countries with weak rule of law, the most common reason why elections do not meet international standards of being "free and fair" is interference from the incumbent government. Dictators may use the powers of the executive police, martial law, censorship, physical implementation of the election mechanism, etc. Members of a particular faction in a legislature may use the power of the majority or supermajority passing criminal laws, defining the electoral mechanisms including eligibility and district boundaries to prevent the balance of power in the body from shifting to a rival faction due to an election. Monitoring for and minimizing electoral fraud is also an ongoing task in countries with strong traditions of free and fair elections. Problems that prevent an election from being "free and fair" take various forms. Freedom of speech may be curtailed by the state, favoring certain viewpoints or state propaganda. Only batches of two or three were allowed to enter the polling-office at a time. Armed sentries guarded the gates and the doors leading to the office, and were also posted on the roofs of adjoining houses and in the belfry and tower of the church. Gerrymandering, exclusion of opposition candidates from eligibility for office, needlessly high restrictions on who may be a candidate, like ballot access rules, and manipulating thresholds for electoral success are some of the ways the structure of an election can be changed to favor a specific faction or candidate. Interference with campaigns[edit] Those in power may arrest or assassinate candidates, suppress or even criminalize campaigning, close campaign headquarters, harass or beat campaign workers, or intimidate voters with violence. Foreign electoral intervention can also occur. Tampering with the election mechanism[edit] This can include confusing or misleading voters about how to vote, violation of the secret ballot, ballot stuffing, tampering with voting machines, destruction of legitimately cast ballots, voter suppression, voter registration fraud, failure to validate voter residency, fraudulent tabulation of results, and use of physical force or verbal intimidation at polling places. Other examples include persuading candidates into not standing against them, such as through blackmailing, bribery, intimidation or physical violence. Sham election[edit] A sham election is an election that is held purely for show; that is, without any significant political choice or real impact on results of election. Dictatorial regimes can also organize show elections with results simulating those that might be achieved in democratic countries.

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