

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

★ FLIER Speakers

FLIER will provide speaker/s for your local political club meeting, religious group, chamber of commerce meeting, or house party. Contact us to schedule our Speakers' Bureau members for an engagement.

★ Educational Forums

If you are interested in being a "point" person in your area, we will work with you to organize a forum on electoral reform, providing speakers, moderators and media equipment, as needed.

★ Campus Chapters

Form a Campus Electoral Reform chapter. We can help. Contact us.

★ Advocacy

Join us in contacting and meeting with local and statewide congressional members and candidates to inform and educate them on electoral reform issues.



BOSS TWEED: "As long as I count the Votes, what are you going to do about it?"

FLIER

Florida Initiative for Electoral Reform



GET INVOLVED

✓ Join FLIER today at

www.floridaelectoralreform.org

✓ Follow us on Facebook at **FLIER**

✓ Follow us on Twitter at **FLIEReform**

CONTRIBUTE

With your donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500 or more, we can expand our Educational Forums. Any amount will help. Thank you!

Donate at www.floridaelectoralreform.org, or make checks payable to FLIER and mail to: FLIER, 3400 Place Valencay, Delray Beach, FL 33445.

ORGANIZE A FORUM

Contact us and we will bring an educational forum on electoral reform to your city or community.

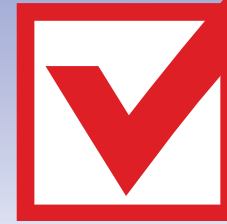
CONTACT US

info@floridaelectoralreform.org
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www.FloridaElectoralReform.org

FLIER

Florida Initiative for Electoral Reform



ELECTORAL REFORM

The Most Important Ignored Issue in America

FLIER is a non-partisan coalition of groups and individuals recognizing the need for electoral reforms to enrich and expand democracy in Florida.

In addition to advocacy, we seek to provide education on electoral reform and the policy solutions necessary to realize it. We are working towards a vibrant democracy with accessibility for the average person, a competitive political environment, and pluralism in policy and decision making.

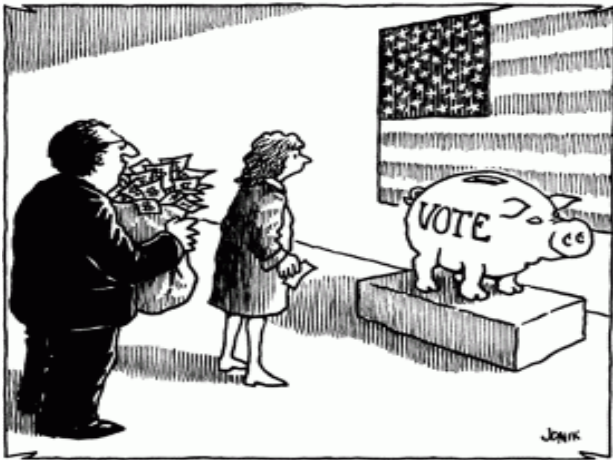
www.FloridaElectoralReform.org

WHY ELECTORAL REFORM?

We believe that the U.S. should function as a representative democracy. Unfortunately, our electoral system is undermining that function. Except for 2 entrenched parties, our electoral system stifles competition, rejects pluralism, and restricts access to the average person. This limits our right to choose decision makers and diminishes the quality of democracy.

Stagnation Over the last 44 years, on average, 93% of incumbents have been re-elected to the U.S. House and 87% to the U.S. Senate. In Florida, these indicators of stagnation are even worse. From 1996 to 2008, incumbents sought re-election to Congress or the state legislature 873 times and won 852 times, or 97.6%.

Non-Competitive Elections The practice of gerrymandering has designed congressional and state legislative districts according to self-serving political objectives rendering them no longer competitive. Voters have little choice, yet it has become next to impossible to defeat an incumbent. Moreover, the districts lean so heavily toward one party or another that candidates are rarely forced to consider the other party or even the vast “middle” in order to win election.



Purchased Elections Another negative side effect of our stagnant, non-competitive electoral system is

an incredibly safe investment environment for moneyed interests. For individual candidates, elections are very expensive - out of reach for those without access to wealth or the opportunity to “sell” their independence to political donors.

Horse Races How we count votes is another problem. Even though the early colonists rejected British rule, they blithely accepted the British “first-past-the-post” electoral system. Our current voting system, also called “winner-take-all” means that only the candidate with the most votes wins, even if the winner does not have majority support. In a horse race, this makes sense because only one horse can win. However, in government this is unfair. Most people will go unrepresented while a stifling two-party system becomes institutionalized.

SOLUTIONS

End Gerrymandering

- ✓ Pass initiatives and amendments such as Fair Districts Amendments 5 & 6 (Nov. 2010 election).
- ✓ Establish independent citizen advisory boards and judicial panels to oversee redistricting at the local level.
- ✓ Establish a statewide fair elections commission consisting of non-partisan experts, citizens, and other stakeholders to take ownership over the process from the legislature.
- ✓ Such a commission should use available technology to draw compact, contiguous, and community-based districts.

Public Financing

- ✓ Pass a Florida Clean Elections Act.
- ✓ Establish a public campaign finance system based on the “clean elections” model exemplified and working in Maine and Arizona.
- ✓ Create a system where candidates may opt to qualify for public financing by foregoing private financing after collecting a reasonable number of small donations.

- ✓ Include “fair play” funds to help Clean candidates remain competitive against those who forego public financing and surpass spending limits through private financing.

Ranked Choice Voting

How it works:

- ✓ Vote by ranking your choices in order of preference.
- ✓ If there is no majority winner, then the candidate with the least votes is dropped.
- ✓ If the dropped candidate was your first choice, your second choice becomes your first choice.
- ✓ The votes are then recounted automatically until there is a majority winner.

S. Lopez	3
J. Smith	10
L. Franklin	2

Benefits:

- ✓ Encourages more choices leading to greater representation.
- ✓ Ends the spoiler argument against 3rd party candidates.
- ✓ Eliminates the need for expensive runoff elections.

Fair Ballot Access

- ✓ Create accessible ballots with reasonable qualification requirements, i.e. requiring a small amount of petitions, not based on a percentage of the population, or small filing fees, not based on a percentage of the office’s salary, and refundable if a certain percentage of votes is received.
- ✓ Qualification should be equally accessible for all candidates regardless of party affiliation.

Other Reforms

- ✓ Voter Accessibility and Enfranchisement
- ✓ Multimember Districts
- ✓ Open Debates and Media Access
- ✓ Level Access for all Candidates and Parties