Progressive Election Platform

December 1, 2024

[Click here to see the **Proposed Executive Order** to get the party started!](#)

Scope

At the heart of democratic governance lies the voting system, a mechanism designed to reflect the collective will of the people. For this system to truly serve its purpose, it must be **so simple and transparent** that **every citizen**, regardless of their background, education, or technological literacy, can not only participate but also **understand and verify every step** of the process. This simplicity and transparency are not just about ease of use; they are fundamental to **ensuring equal access** to the electoral process. If the mechanics of voting are shrouded in complexity or lack transparency, trust in the electoral outcome diminishes, eroding the foundation of our republic. At its essence, voting involves eligible citizens marking their choices on paper, followed by a straightforward count of these marks. This process doesn't necessitate elaborate or costly technology; instead, it demands clarity, accessibility, and the ability for public oversight. For American citizens to genuinely reclaim their electoral process, immediate and comprehensive reforms are imperative. Here's what we must implement:

Voter Registration

- Counties must once again become the SOLE CUSTODIAN of

their County Voter Registrations.

- Counties must be the SOLE ARBITER of registrant eligibility.
- Every 2 years (4 at the most, as longer leads to less accurate information)
- In-person at the county
- Verified citizen and residency check at that time
- Paper voter registration cards (this is a great place to ask for election volunteers!)
- Witnessed signature
- Stored by voting precinct
- A read-only standardized (UNIVERSAL FORMAT) digital list of registered voters is provided by every county on their website to share with the citizens and all other counties.
- Each county cross-references their list against all other counties. Paper poll books for each precinct are created from registration cards prior to every election.
- A national unique voter number assigned to each voter would greatly improve registration integrity.

Absentee Ballots

- Limited to as-needed basis
- Proof must be provided and accepted
- Extreme scrutiny must be placed on every incoming ballot, with additional integrity mechanisms
    - OPTIONAL IMPROVEMENT: A Ballot choice 'hash' (digital 'fingerprint' of the voted ballot choices — not an actual fingerprint from a finger) could be developed that could be used as additional form of received ballot integrity

- Military Absentee ballots must be identified as such. Non-Military Absentee ballots must be identified , and both should also look different than in-person ballots to ensure they all remain discrete.
- *There is no way to absolutely guarantee that the ballot received and tabulated is the same ballot that was sent by the voter, without violating ballot secrecy. This is why Absentee voting is so vulnerable.*

Election Day

- One day voting holiday
- Elections at the precinct (each precinct <= 1500 population)
- *An idea to further minimize engineered manipulation:* Standardized FIXED voting start/end/duration across the country to eliminate time-staggered abuse vector (14-hour voting period, for example) — *This will require some work and thought!*
    - West coast would be starting at 5a and ending at 7p
    - East coast voting would start at 9a and end at 11p
    - 100% registered and participated, would result in just under 2 voters per minute max needed throughput. If each voter takes 6 minutes to fill out the ballot, one would need to have minimum 6 voting booths per precinct. If people arrive with cheat sheets, this is all easily doable.

- Checked in on paper poll book
- Witnessed signature
- Cross-referenced with previously filled out voter registration card

- No early or late ballots
- Paper ballots dropped in translucent locked container
- Entire room on video

Election Night

- No ballots accepted after poll close.
- At poll close, all ballots:
    - Separated by Military Absentee, Non-Military Absentee, In-person.
    - Batched (pick up 25 ballots then randomize in order for ballot secrecy).
    - Scan the batch to produce digital images in a PDF.
    - Votes COUNTED WHERE CAST
        - Under High Definition video
        - Bi-partisan citizens and witnesses using state-approved hand tabulation method
- Results released right then by precinct and posted on the outside of the building for all to see/verify

Reporting

- Each precinct posts the signed precinct results on the outside of the building, the same page that was scanned during tabulation.
- All ballot images, tally sheets, results pages, other paperwork, and video put on county website grouped by precinct for anyone and everyone to verify all they like.

- Just like I did here: https://openelectionrecords.org/ar-searcy-county-2024-03-05/

- Discrete reporting by voting type: Military Absentee, Non-Military Absentee, In-person.
- Our election officials should be **Election Transparency Agents**, who's duties are ensuring that all chain of custody and election records are both preserved and both made public to enable exhaustive audits to be performed by any American Citizen that desires to do so.

Auditing

- Students in 6-12th grades
  - Civics refresher
  - Election refresher
  - Break into groups
  - Pull up their school's precinct ballots from county website
  - Students re-tabulate the ballots themselves
  - Compare results
  - If there is any discrepancy
    - Students submit through a standardized reporting form on County Website
    - County celebrates the catch and publicly awards the class

  - Advanced math students could then dive into the statistics of the elections to identify inorganic patterns

- Public
    - The public can access all election data on the county website and audit to their hearts content
        - Voted lists
        - Ballot tabulation
        - Chain of Custody
        - Statistics

THE ABOVE IS A WORK-IN-PROGRESS. If you have suggestions, please reach out!
You can find me on X @PatriotMarkCook