## **BEST DEMOCRACY**

All government and electoral systems in the US (with the exception of Cambridge, MA) are designed to concentrate power and exclude people. Madison's goal was to "protect the minority of the opulent from the majority", implemented through election distortions. These distortions still persist.

#### What are the Problems?

#### Current elections are predetermine using 4 variables:

 Distort Who Votes: gerrymandered districts, voter suppression, off year and non-November elections.
 Ballot Access Suppression: candidate suppression, party suppression, Direct Democracy initiative suppression.

3) Distorted Representation: Single Member Districts, At Large - Plurality "block" voting, the US Senate.
4) Distorted Outcomes through Vote Counting: First Past the Post (FPTP, aka plurality), Electoral College.

The cumulative effects of systemic electoral distortions are: concentrated power, limited accountability and exclusion of the majority from decision making.

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#### What are the Solutions?

- Electoral systems should be designed to disperse power and include everyone.
- Identify and remove all barriers and obstructions to voter access.
- Make ballot access easy for candidates of all ideologies. Adopt online petition gathering for initiatives at all levels of government.
- Accurately include candidate and voter diversity from all demographic subsets of the electorate, proportionate to their percentage of the vote, in all outcomes.
- Retain and include voter intent throughout the vote counting process, with 0% wasted votes. 100% voter inclusion can be accomplished through Proportional Representation in Multi Member Districts, MMP in the County, STV in the cities, and ranked votes.

Learn more about election issues and Pro Rep at: www.bestdemocracy.org www.facebook.com/groups/bestdemocracy/ <u>https://www.meetup.com/Best-Democracy-</u> <u>Proportional-Representation</u>

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