

Resources for Beyond Voting: Elections / Campaign Financing

General

Vote 411 Register, check registration, find out what's on the ballot <https://www.vote411.org/>

My Congressional District –“quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau”
<https://www.census.gov/mycd/>

Oregon Secretary of State – Voting and Elections Division

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Secretary of State – Register to vote; check registration

<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

National Conference of State Legislatures - Elections and Campaign page “NCSL provides 50-state research on many election law and procedural issues <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns.aspx>

SERIES: ARCHAIC ELECTION METHODS CRIPPLE DEMOCRACY

<http://www.sightline.org/series/voting-systems-cripple-democracy/>

Right to Vote

Electoral Dysfunction – The Right to Vote [4 min. video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMl0MHFGhE8>

Restricting the Vote - section on the Brennan Center site that keeps track of attempts to restrict people from voting

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/restricting-vote>

Voter Turnout

U.S. voter turnout trails most developed countries May 21, 2018 Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/02/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/>

The U.S. Should Require All Citizens to Vote. Ornstein. July 2012.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/07/the-us-should-require-all-citizens-to-vote/259902/>

Voter Registration

Automatic Voter Registration Works Everywhere It's Been Implemented Derek Rosenfeld April 11, 2019

Brennan Center study shows that AVR increased registration rates in every state where the policy has gone into effect.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/automatic-voter-registration-works-everywhere-been-implemented>

Full study: https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019_04_AVR_Report_Final_0.pdf

Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters Kennedy, Daley, Wright. Jan 20, 2016 Demos

<http://www.demos.org/publication/automatic-voter-registration-finding-americas-missing-voters>

“Inaccurate, Costly and Inefficient: Evidence That America's Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade”. Pew

Center for the States. Feb, 2012. <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/documents/Pew-UpgradingVoterRegistration.pdf>

Oregon City Elections <https://www.orcity.org/cityrecorder/elections>

Clackamas County Elections <https://www.clackamas.us/elections>

Voting Systems - Primaries

FairVote – Primary Elections

http://www.fairvote.org/primaries#open_and_closed_primaries

Open Primaries <https://www.openprimaries.org/>

Listings of the type of Primaries for each state:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/primary-types.aspx>

Voting Process/Methods – Ranked Choice Voting [aka Instant Runoff]

Ranked Choice Voting – Benton County [begins in 2020 is more than three candidates]

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/elections/page/ranked-choice-voting>

Ranked Choice Voting video created for Maine [1:30] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rkx0e2Cduyk>

Where RCV [Ranked Choice Voting] is Used Has helpful 2-minute video about how it worked in a Mayoral election

http://www.fairvote.org/where_is_ranked_choice_voting_used

Fair Vote – Ranked Choice Voting / Instant Runoff <http://www.fairvote.org/rcv#rcvbenefits>

Voting Process/Methods – STAR Voting

STAR Voting - <https://www.starvoting.us/>

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STAR Voting for Lane County video https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=81&v=w9JZVEOR-Os
For Lane County Voters: STAR Voting Explained 6 minute audio from KLCC [also, transcript]. Oct 11, 2018
<https://www.klcc.org/post/supporters-star-voting-make-another-attempt>

Supporters of “STAR Voting” make another attempt [Eugene/Lane County] By Chris M Lehman. Aug 26, 2019.
<https://www.klcc.org/post/supporters-star-voting-make-another-attempt>

STAR Voting - prospective Multnomah County Initiative <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1821618454770952/>

Electoral College

About the Electors. National Archives <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/electors.html>

Electoral College https://ballotpedia.org/Electoral_College

National Popular Vote <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/> “Work-around” to the Electoral College

Oregon Just Joined the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Eberhard. Sightline. 6/5/2019

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/06/05/oregon-just-joined-the-national-popular-vote-interstate-compact/>

FairVote: National Popular Vote http://www.fairvote.org/national_popular_vote#endorsers_of_the_npv_plan

Voting Rights

Oregon Just Passed a Voting Rights Act. Here’s Why It’s a Big Deal. Eberhard. Sightline Institute. 6/13/2019

Oregon’s new law that will assist greater participation by people-of-color on School Boards

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/06/13/oregon-voting-rights-act-passes-senate-june-12/>

Info on the bill from the state <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/HB3310>

Voting Laws Roundup 2019. Brennan Center

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-2019>

Democracy Diminished: State and Local Threats to Voting, Post-Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder

Legal Defense Fund, NAACP. 2014 [Report] <https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/Democracy-Diminished-State-and-Local-Threats-to-Voting-Post-Shelby-County-Alabama-v.-Holder.pdf>

‘Politics Ain’t the Same’ — How the 19th Amendment Changed American Elections Lynn Sherr Aug 28, 2016

<http://billmoyers.com/story/politics-aint-19th-amendment-changed-american-elections/>

Voting and the Criminal Justice System

Felony Disenfranchisement. The Sentencing Project

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/felony-disenfranchisement/>

FAQ on Felons’ Voting Rights in Oregon

<https://multco.us/elections/faq%E2%80%99s-felon%E2%80%99s-voting-rights-oregon>

State Felon Voter Laws [map and chart]

<http://felonvoting.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000286>

Voter Fraud

In Their Own Words: Officials Refuting False Claims of Voter Fraud

<https://www.brennancenter.org/quotes-on-voter-fraud>

Myth of Voter Fraud

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/voter-fraud>

Election Commission Documents Cast Doubt on Trump’s Claims of Voter Fraud

<https://www.propublica.org/article/election-commission-documents-cast-doubt-on-trumps-claims-of-voter-fraud>

Election Security

Interview with Oregon’s election system, Steve Trout, on KATU

<https://katu.com/news/your-voice-your-vote/director-of-elections-in-oregon-talks-election-security>

Senate Bill 944 authorizing “risk-limiting audits” for elections in Oregon [2019 legislative session].

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB944/Enrolled>

Senator Ron Wyden Mar 2018 Senate Hearing on election security

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXjYNLJ9yAM>

Securing American Elections Prescriptions for Enhancing the Integrity and Independence of the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election and Beyond. Michael McFaul, Editor Stanford University June 2019.

<https://fsi.stanford.edu/publication/securing-american-elections-prescriptions-enhancing-integrity-and-independence-2020-us> Download:

https://fsi-live.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/stanford_cyber_policy_center-securing_american_elections.pdf

Senate Republicans block two election security bill. By Maggie Miller. 10/22/19

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/466985-senate-republicans-block-two-election-security-bills?fbclid=IwAR2lSkclCkedZP1sWAVyjY0YB7JoSIO2ArchGhMp5JzWKaGhRfYLBByeKio>

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House passes third bill aimed at preventing foreign election interference. By Maggie Miller. 10/23/19
<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/467185-house-passes-third-bill-aimed-at-preventing-foreign-election-interference>

Election Security Funding: Cost Estimates Breakdown. August 15, 2019. Brennan Center.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/what-does-election-security-cost>

McConnell said he'd support \$250M in election security. This report says that's not enough

Phillip M. Bailey, Louisville Courier Journal Published 3:48 p.m. ET Sept. 26, 2019 | Updated 3:27 p.m. ET Sept. 29, 2019

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/elections/kentucky/2019/09/26/mitch-mcconnell-election-security-funding-not-enough-brennan-center-report-shows/3775366002/>

Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook. Harvard U. Belfer Center. <https://www.belfercenter.org/CyberPlaybook>

Congressional Ignorance Leaves the U.S. Vulnerable to Cyberthreats Scientific American

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/congressional-ignorance-leaves-the-u-s-vulnerable-to-cyberthreats/>

Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Redistricting Matters Current campaign from League of Women Voters and Oregon Common Cause for a ballot initiative in 2020 for an independent redistricting commission <http://www.redistrictingmatters.org/> **Resources** page:

<http://www.redistrictingmatters.org/understand-the-issue/redistricting-resources/>

What is Redistricting? Levitt. Loyola Law School <http://redistricting.lls.edu/what.php>

Fair Vote – Gerrymandering http://www.fairvote.org/gerrymandering#gerrymandering_key_facts

Redistricting. Brennan Center <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/gerrymandering-fair-representation>

The State of Redistricting Litigation (Updated Oct 14, 2019 Edition). Li, Wolf and Lo. Aug 2019.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/state-redistricting-litigation>

Hear Elena Kagan Read Her Searing Dissent in the Partisan Gerrymandering Case [and transcript] Slate. 10/25/2019

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/10/elena-kagan-audio-partisan-gerrymandering-dissent.html>

North Carolina's Congressional Gerrymander Is Dead. Stern. Oct 29, 2019.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/10/north-carolina-court-kills-republican-gerrymander.html>

Redistricting. National Conference of State Legislatures <http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting.aspx>

Campaign Finance

Oregon Voters Could Finally Rein in Campaign Contributions Eberhard. Sightline. July 8, 2019

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/07/08/oregon-voters-could-finally-rein-in-campaign-contributions/>

Oregon Democrats call for “substantial regulation” of money in state politics Rob Davis. Aug 15, 2019

<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2019/08/oregon-democrats-call-for-substantial-regulation-of-money-in-state-politics.html?fbclid=IwAR2kVg-sI8Ao0uXGSbt3vHKU2-nO628CR2q7aSJkqc4eHREjTzkIspCtZLY>

SJR 18 Referring to the voters a measure to change the Oregon Constitution to allow campaign finance limits [2019 session] <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/SJR18>

Fixing the FEC: An Agenda for Reform Brennan Center. April, 2019.

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019_04_FECV_Final.pdf

Campaign contribution limits - federal. Federal Election Commission.

<https://transition.fec.gov/info/contriblimitschart1718.pdf>

Campaign contribution limits in the states. National Conference of State Legislatures.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/campaign-contribution-limits-overview.aspx>

Citizens United Opinion [Be sure to check out the dissenting opinion, too. Starts on page 88.]

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>

Campaign Legal Center “Holding government officials accountable”

<http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/>

Secret Spending in the States. Brennan Center. 2016. Shows the importance of state/local campaign finance laws!

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/Secret_Spending_in_the_States.pdf

Honest Elections Campaign Finance Measures – Oregon <http://or.honest-elections.com/>

A 28th Amendment to Restore the American Promise [video] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6igolnTvqA>

Questions about 527 and 501(c) 4 orgs.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/faq.php>

Difference between SuperPACS and “dark money” [money from the non-profits]. Especially at “Here’s a huge caveat”:

<https://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/10/30/the-difference-between-super-pacs-and-dark-money-groups/>

Chart of Disclosure Rules from the Campaign Legal Center [federal]

http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/sites/default/files/CLC_501c_disclosure_chart.pdf

Getting Foreign Funds Out of America’s Elections. Vandewalker and Norden. Brennan Center. April 2018

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Getting%20Foreign%20Funds%20Out%20of%20America%27s%20Elections.%20Final_April9.pdf

Campaign Finance Tracking

Center for Responsive Politics – Open Secrets All things \$ in politics including “dark money” groups.
http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/nonprof_summ.php Info on non-profits acting in the political realm

MoneyLine <http://pml.cq.com/>

Oregon Campaign Finance Information - ORESTAR System Public Search

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/gotoPublicTransactionSearch.do>

Choose other searches: PACs, etc. on left side of page

Public Disclosure Commission - Follow the Money. Washington State Campaign Finance Information

<https://www.pdc.wa.gov/>

Public Financing of Elections

Public Financing of Presidential Elections brochure

<http://www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/pubfund.shtml>

Public Financing. Brennan Center. Feb 4, 2016

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/reform-money-politics/public-campaign-financing>

Portland Chapter 2.16 Open and Accountable Elections 2018. [reinstatement of Public Campaign Financing program]

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/72577>

Here's a research guide from Harvard University on **Campaigns and Elections.**

https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/campaigns_elections

Initiative and Referendum

Oregon Initiative and Referendum database Detailed info but not campaign finance info

http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search.search_form]

Misc

Reformers Caucus Bipartisan group on behalf of money-in-politics reform of former members of Congress and governors. <https://www.issueone.org/reformers/>

Winning Reform in the States Blueprints for Democracy. 2017 Update. Reviews steps taken within various states.

<http://www.blueprintsfordemocracy.org/update/>

Democracy: An Election Agenda for Candidates, Activists, and Legislators. Weiser and Bannon. May, 2018.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/democracy-election-agenda-2018>

H.R. 1 For the People Act 2019 Passed in House March 8, 2019

SEC. 2. Organization of Act into divisions (a) Divisions.—This Act is organized into 3 divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Voting. (2) Division B—Campaign Finance. (3) Division C—Ethics.

House Report <https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt15/CRPT-116hrpt15.pdf> 446 pages, includes dissenting views

<https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/house-bill/1?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22automatic+voter+registration%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=4>

This bill addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government. [Some of what is contained follows:]

- Specifically, the bill expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.
- The bill provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions.
- The bill also sets forth provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, protecting the security of the voter rolls, supporting states in securing their election systems, developing a national strategy to protect the security and integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establishing in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.
- This bill addresses campaign spending, including by expanding the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections; expanding disclosure rules pertaining to organizations spending money during elections, campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revising disclaimer requirements for political advertising.
- This bill establishes an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices. The system involves federal matching of small contributions for qualified candidates.