



Securing the Future of Voting: Election Modernization Act of 2024



The Election Modernization Act of 2024 seeks to modernize the U.S. voting process by introducing a secure online voting system alongside traditional polling stations. This reform addresses the critical issues of mistrust, accessibility, and inefficiency in the current election system. The proposed policy includes a phased implementation plan starting with the 2028 election, incorporating a nominal fee for the online voting option during the transitional period. The revenue generated will fund voter participation initiatives, including registration drives, services for disenfranchised voters, and nonpartisan voter education. This act aims to restore confidence in the electoral process, reduce barriers to voting, and ensure a more inclusive and secure election system.

A New Era for Voting

Voting is the foundation of democracy, allowing citizens to have a voice in their government. However, the current election system in the United States is outdated, costly, and increasingly mistrusted by the public.

As society becomes more digitally integrated, it is essential that our voting process evolves to reflect these changes. The Election Modernization Act of 2024 is designed to address the limitations of the current system by introducing a secure online voting option, making voting more accessible, reducing costs, and restoring public confidence in the integrity of elections.

- **Online Voting Option:** Introduces online voting alongside traditional methods making voting more accessible and convenient for all citizens.
- **Security and Accessibility:** The online voting platform will use advanced security measures and be designed for ease of use, ensuring all voters can participate securely.
- **Pilot Program for 2028:** The online voting system will be tested as a pilot program during the 2028 election, allowing for careful evaluation and adjustments before a broader rollout.
- **Cost Reduction & Public Trust:** Online voting is expected to reduce the high costs associated with physical polling stations while addressing public concerns about the integrity and accessibility of the election process.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Challenges in the Current System

The current U.S. election system is fraught with significant issues that undermine its effectiveness and fairness

- **Eroded Trust in Paper Ballots:** Paper ballots, long considered the standard for secure voting, have become a source of widespread mistrust. Numerous stories of lost, discarded, or tampered ballots, whether true or not, have eroded public confidence in the reliability of the electoral process.
- **Accessibility Barriers:** Many voters face substantial challenges in casting their ballots. These include a lack of transportation, inability to take time off work, childcare responsibilities, and other personal obligations. These barriers disproportionately affect low-income and marginalized communities, leading to lower voter turnout among these groups.
- **High Costs and Inefficiencies:** Maintaining physical polling stations and outdated voting machines is costly and inefficient. These resources could be better utilized, especially when modern technology offers more effective and streamlined solutions.
- **Bias and Intimidation at Polling Stations:** The environment at polling stations can influence voter behavior and deter participation. Studies have shown that voters in certain settings, such as churches or schools, may be swayed by their surroundings. Additionally, the potential for voter intimidation at these locations further complicates the voting process.
- **Limited Voting Timeframe:** The traditional single-day voting process can be restrictive for many voters who may not be able to participate due to work, family, or other commitments. Expanding the voting window through online options can alleviate this issue.



Paths Forward: Evaluating Policy Options

1. **Maintain the Status Quo:** Continue with the current system of paper ballots, physical polling stations, and high signature requirements for ballot access. This option does not address the growing mistrust, accessibility issues, or the high costs associated with the current system.
2. **Introduce Online Voting as an Option:** Implement a secure online voting system alongside traditional polling stations for the 2028 election. This option would modernize the voting process, making it more accessible and cost-effective while maintaining a choice for voters who prefer the traditional method.
3. **Full Transition to Online Voting:** Move entirely to an online voting system, eliminating the need for physical polling stations. While this option would offer the greatest efficiency, it requires significant public trust and rigorous testing to ensure security and accessibility.

Proposed Solution: Introduce Online Voting as an Option

The recommended policy is to Introduce Online Voting as an Option alongside traditional polling stations, with the following key components:

1. **Secure Online Voting Platform:**

- **Development and Security:** A secure, user-friendly online voting system will be developed with the highest standards of data protection. Multi-factor authentication methods, including ID verification, biometric authentication, and encryption, will ensure that each vote is secure and that voter identities are protected.
- **Voter Convenience:** The system will allow voters to cast their ballots from the comfort of their homes or any location with internet access, removing the need to travel to polling stations.

2. **Transitional Fee and Funding:**

- **Nominal Fee:** During the initial rollout, a small fee (e.g., 99 cents) will be charged to voters using the online system. This fee will serve as an additional layer of voter authentication and will help fund the system's development and maintenance.
- **Revenue Allocation:** Funds raised from this fee, expected to be in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars, will be allocated to support voter participation initiatives, such as registration drives, services for disenfranchised voters, and nonpartisan voter education programs.

3. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:**

- **Design Considerations:** The online platform will be designed to be fully accessible to all voters, including those with disabilities. The platform will be available in multiple languages to accommodate non-English speakers.
- **Voter Assistance Services:** Special services will be provided to help those who cannot easily access polling stations or the internet, such as bringing tablets or laptops to the homes of elderly or disabled voters to facilitate their participation.



4. **Pilot Program for the 2028 Election:**

- **Test and Evaluation:** The online voting option will be introduced as part of a pilot program during election 2028. Voters will have the choice to vote online or at traditional polling stations, allowing for data collection on system performance, voter satisfaction, and overall turnout.
- **Feedback and Improvement:** Following the election, a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted to identify any issues and implement necessary improvements to the system.

5. **Voter Participation Initiatives:**

- **Voter Registration Drives:** Focused efforts in both rural and urban areas will ensure broad voter registration, targeting communities that are typically underrepresented in elections. Half of the efforts will focus on rural (typically Republican) areas, and half on urban (typically Democratic) areas, ensuring that neither party feels disadvantaged.
- **Voter Services for the Disenfranchised:** Assistance will be provided to individuals who cannot easily access polling stations or the internet. This includes delivering tablets or laptops to the homes of those with mobility issues or without internet access, enabling them to vote securely from their homes.
- **Nonpartisan Voter Education Programs:** A nonpartisan organization will educate voters about candidates' positions on key issues, ensuring transparency and informed decision-making.

This program will also clarify how candidates plan to fund their proposals, helping voters understand the potential impact of each platform.

6. **Evaluation and Expansion:**

- **Public Acceptance:** After the 2028 election, the success of the online voting system will be evaluated based on voter turnout, system security, and public feedback. Depending on the results, the program may be expanded, with the fee eventually phased out to ensure that voting remains free for all Americans.

Implementation: Step-by-Step Transition

1. **System Development:** Collaborate with cybersecurity experts, software developers, and election officials to design and build a secure online voting platform. Ensure that the system meets the highest standards of security, accessibility, and user-friendliness.
2. **Public Awareness Campaign:** Launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign to educate voters about the new online voting option, its benefits, and how to use it. This campaign will be crucial in gaining public trust and ensuring widespread adoption.
3. **Pilot Program Launch:** Introduce the online voting system as a pilot program during the 2028 election. Collect data on system performance, voter satisfaction, and overall turnout to inform future improvements.
4. **Ongoing Evaluation:** Conduct a thorough evaluation of the online voting system after the 2028 election. Use this data to make any necessary adjustments and prepare for potential expansion in future elections.
5. **Phase Out Fee:** Once the system is proven secure and effective, eliminate the transitional fee to ensure that all voters can use the online system without cost.

Strengthening Democracies Future



The Election Modernization Act of 2024 is a vital step toward ensuring that our electoral system is accessible, secure, and reflective of the needs of a modern society.

By introducing a secure online voting option, lowering barriers to voter participation, and funding initiatives to engage and educate voters, this act will strengthen our democracy and restore public confidence in the electoral process.

The time has come to embrace technological advancements and ensure that every citizen can participate in the democratic process, regardless of their circumstances.

Learn more at www.galinsky2024.us/issue/election-modernization

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