

QUESTIONNAIRE

A House Divided

What Would We Have to Give Up to Get the Political System We Want?

You may also fill out this questionnaire online: www.nifi.org/questionnaires

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you're thinking. Anonymous responses will be included in summary reports on the forums and in research to help us better understand how people are thinking about current issues.

Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?

| | Strongly Favor | Somewhat Favor | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Not Sure |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Require all television networks to provide opposing views on controversial issues EVEN IF this reduces complex debates to "pro" and "con" voices and means that important voices may never be heard. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Prevent political gerrymandering by establishing nonpartisan commissions to design sensibly shaped, population-based congressional districts EVEN IF that means some groups, such as minorities, lose power. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Give more authority to states and cities to regulate such matters as education, transportation, and energy use to meet particular local needs EVEN IF that results in a patchwork of laws that slows the nation's progress on equal education and environmental protection. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Make it much easier for many people to vote EVEN IF this also removes barriers that prevent voter fraud and manipulation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

For questions 5-8, let us know which statement comes closer to your view. If you're not sure, please let us know.

- 5. Unfortunately, attempts to curtail hate speech online and in the media pose too great a threat to free speech. It's not worth the risk.
- VERSUS:**
Allowing private companies like Facebook and Twitter to enforce some minimal standards of decency online doesn't threaten free speech. In fact, these companies have a responsibility to do it.
- OR:**
Not sure
- 6. Another round of election and lobbying reform isn't going to work. People will always find a way around the rules.
- VERSUS:**
Over time, we have made elections and government less corrupt and fairer. Reform won't solve everything, but it can help.
- OR:**
Not sure
- 7. Too many major decisions about education, energy, and health care are made in DC, where legislators there don't understand what local communities need.
- VERSUS:**
Americans across the country deserve minimum standards of protection in these key areas. Local decisions aren't always better.
- OR:**
Not sure

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8. The problem with our current politics is that too many people in politics have lost their sense of honor, decency, and fair play. Changing the rules won't make much of a difference.

VERSUS:

We need laws that set and enforce better standards of honor, decency, and fair play. Without them, the least honorable people will thrive while decent people lose out.

OR:

Not sure

9. How much disagreement was there about this issue in your forum?
 A lot of disagreement Some disagreement Hardly any disagreement at all

Why did you answer the way you did? _____

10. Did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before? Yes No

If so, please explain. _____

11. Were there ideas or proposals that you tended to favor coming into the forum that you now have second thoughts about?

Yes No

If so, please explain. _____

12. What could citizens, working together, do in their own communities to address this problem? _____

13. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

0 1-3 4-6 7 or more Not sure

14. Are you male or female? Male Female Other (please specify) _____

15. How old are you?

17 or younger 18-30 31-45 46-64 65 or older

16. Are you: African American Asian American Hispanic or Latino
 Native American White/Caucasian Other (please specify) _____

17. Where do you live? Rural Small Town Large City Suburb

18. What is your ZIP code? _____ What state do you live in? _____

19. Were you born in the United States? Yes No

20. What issue would you like to see covered in a future forum? _____

**Please give this form to the moderator, email to forumreports@nifi.org, or mail to:
National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459.**

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