

>> Political Fix

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

How Do We Get American Politics Back on Track?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD the chance to participate in this forum, we'd like to know what you think. Your opinions, along with those of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in these forums, as well as officeholders and members of the news media.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. Lawmakers cannot give full attention to their duties because they must spend far too much time raising funds for the next election campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Most elected officials do not relate to the problems facing ordinary Americans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Most politicians tend to serve their own interests or those of their backers rather than considering the public good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Proportional representation, in which the number of congressional seats won by a party in an election would reflect the number of votes received, would better meet the needs of our increasingly diverse society than the winner-take-all system we now use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Special interests backed by big money have far too much influence on the nation's lawmakers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The control over redrawing voting districts, exerted in most states by party politicians, is a major culprit in our growing political polarization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?					
a. Reverse the Supreme Court ruling that allows political action committees to collect unlimited, anonymous campaign contributions from corporations, EVEN IF this would limit the constitutional right to free speech.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Require full disclosure of all meetings between lobbyists and elected officials or their staff members, EVEN IF this would result in the need to document an avalanche of trivial information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Make it easier for ordinary citizens to run for office, through public financing, for example, EVEN IF this would result in the election of inexperienced lawmakers who may be more susceptible to manipulation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Revise the rules for filibustering to prevent a few lawmakers from blocking actions supported by the majority, EVEN IF that would make it easier for the majority to abuse the minority.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Enact term limits for members of Congress so they do not become entrenched, EVEN IF that means unelected career bureaucrats could gain the advantage over new, inexperienced lawmakers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(continued on next page)

>> QUESTIONNAIRE

- | | Strongly Favor | Somewhat Favor | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Not Sure |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions? (continued) | | | | | |
| f. Require states to hold open primaries in which citizens can vote for candidates of any party, EVEN IF this makes it possible for an opposing party to manipulate the system. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Severely punish campaign violations by disqualifying candidates who break the rules, EVEN IF this may place a nearly impossible burden on candidates by overly punishing them for even minor infractions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Turn over redistricting to independent citizen committees, EVEN IF this could result in undermining the influence of minorities who otherwise would be powerless. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Institute and enforce a waiting period before lawmakers can work for special-interest groups after leaving office, EVEN IF this restricts their ability to pursue careers matched to their skills and experience. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If yes, how? _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| 4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issues you hadn't considered before? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum? | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | |
| 6. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended? | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| 7. Are you male or female? | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | | | |
| 8. How old are you? | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 or younger | <input type="checkbox"/> 18-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 or older |
| 9. Are you: | <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | | |
| 10. Where do you live? | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Town | <input type="checkbox"/> Large City | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | |
| 11. What is your ZIP code? _____ What state do you live in? _____ | | | | | |

Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459. You may also fill out this questionnaire online at www.nifi.org/questionnaires.