

Political Science 171: State Politics

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- United States is unique in placing responsibility for registering to vote on the individual.

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- Again, studies show that registration is increased, but turnout only marginally improved

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Table 3. Estimates of Disenfranchised Felons, 2010

State	Prisoners	Parolees	Fel. Prob.	Jail Inmates	Ex-felons	Total	VAP	Disf. Rate
AK	5,597	2,089	6,959	7		14,652	522,853	2.80%
AL	31,764	9,006	22,017	1,536	198,031	262,354	3,647,277	7.19%
AR	16,204	21,106	27,250	633		65,193	2,204,443	2.96%
AZ	40,130	7,993	54,135	1,583	95,893	199,734	4,763,003	4.19%
CA	165,062	105,133		8,282		278,477	27,958,916	1.00%
CO	22,815	11,014		1,370		35,199	3,803,587	0.93%
CT	19,321	2,894				22,215	2,757,082	0.81%
DE	6,598	560	4,448		14,032	25,638	692,169	3.70%
FL	104,306	4,093	103,318	6,525	1,323,360	1,541,602	14,799,219	10.42%
GA	49,164	25,091	197,013	4,597		275,866	7,196,101	3.83%
HI	5,912					5,912	1,056,483	0.56%
IA	9,455	3,197	8,862	374		21,888	2,318,362	0.94%
ID	7,431	3,957	13,721	386		25,495	1,138,510	2.24%
IL	48,418			2,085		50,503	9,701,453	0.52%
IN	28,028			1,255		29,283	4,875,504	0.60%
KS	9,051	5,063	3,704	691		18,509	2,126,179	0.87%
KY	20,544	14,628	25,688	1,998	180,984	243,842	3,315,996	7.35%
LA	39,445	26,202	42,599	3,648		111,894	3,415,357	3.28%
MA	11,312			1,448		12,760	5,128,706	0.25%
MD	22,645	13,195	26,164	1,584		63,588	4,420,588	1.44%
ME							1,053,828	0.00%
MI	44,113			1,820		45,933	7,539,572	0.61%

Figure 2. Total Felon Disenfranchisement Rates, 2010

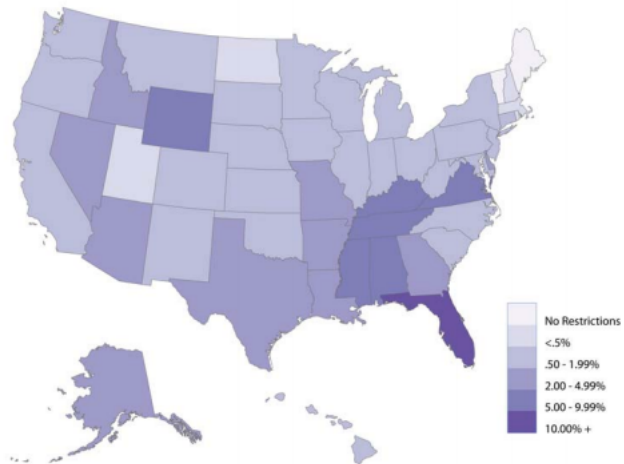
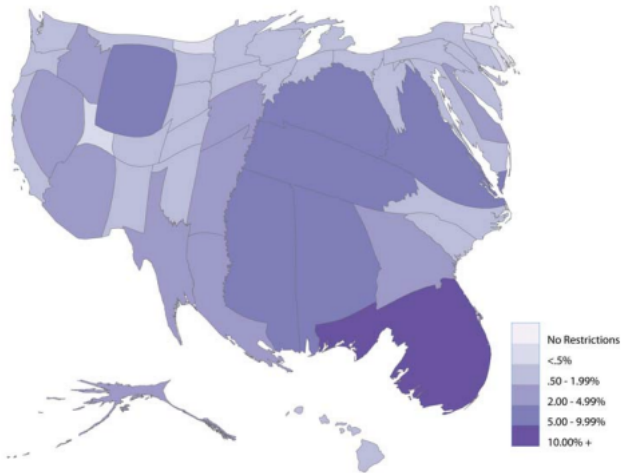


Figure 4. Cartogram of Total Disenfranchisement Rates by State, 2010



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- Such efforts are within the law if the state says only that students, like all citizens, must meet certain residency requirements before allowing them to vote – so these states simply make these residency requirements especially tough (i.e., in-state driver’s license – I’ve always had a CA license even though I’ve voted in WA and FL, what what)

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- However, states can no longer prevent students from registering on grounds that they do not intent to be

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- OR and WA now conduct all their elections by vote by mail. Why?
- in 2005, noticing that 68% of ballots cast were mail, WA allowed its counties to choose whether they would implement all-mail elections. By 2008, all by King and Pierce chose all-mail elections. The state adopted uniformity by 2011 when it passed legislation ensuring all counties voted by mail.

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- Studies seem to suggest that these reforms have mostly failed. These reforms work to retain existing voters by shifting their participation from Election Day to earlier

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- What is new with most of this is a stricter requirement that voters show a phot ID before their vote will be counted (GA and IN started this trend in 2005). IN law went all the way to SCOTUS, which upheld law as constitutional.

