



### **U.S. democracy receives a failing grade in a global study**

The United States' federal electoral system received an overall score of 30 percent for electoral fairness in a global study being conducted by the [Foundation for Democratic Advancement \(FDA\)](#), a non-partisan organization which advances fair and transparent democratic processes. Areas of analysis in the study includes fairness in electoral spending, equality of voter say, equality of candidate and party influence and equality of media coverage. A group of diverse and non-partisan FDA electoral auditors rated each section out of 10 points in terms of fairness.

Key points gleaned from the [study](#):

- The U.S. federal electoral system, in terms of electoral legislation and regulations, received an overall failing grade of 30 percent. (A passing grade is 50 percent.)
- The U.S. score of 0.5 percent on electoral finance borders on full inequality in terms of candidate and party electoral finance.
- The U.S. score of 25 percent for the political content of the media and broadcasters means that the political content of US media and broadcasters is significantly more unfair than fair.
- The U.S. scored 30 percent for equality of political candidate and party influence.
- The only passing score of 60 percent was for equality of voter say and is based on third-party freedom of expression and the inequality of third-party say.

#### **Media contacts:**

Stephen Garvey, Executive Director  
Foundation for Democratic Advancement  
Phone: (403) 669-8132  
Email: [stephen.garvey@democracychange.com](mailto:stephen.garvey@democracychange.com)

Aurangzeb Qureshi, Director of Marketing  
Foundation for Democratic Advancement  
Phone: (403) 390-9750  
Email: [zeb.qureshi@democracychange.com](mailto:zeb.qureshi@democracychange.com)

#### **About the FDA**

**The Foundation for Democratic Advancement ("FDA")'s mission is to advance fair and transparent democratic processes wherever elections occur. The FDA believes that fairer electoral systems and a more informed public will help ensure the election of candidates who truly represent the will of the people. The FDA fulfills its mission by performing detailed electoral audits on political candidates and parties to inform the public, objectively and impartially, about their electoral choices. Also, the FDA audits electoral legislation in terms of fairness and equity, and conducts ground level assessments of democratic processes.**

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