Article 1

22 countries where voting is mandatory

Many of these countries are from Latin America and most of them have a minimum voting age of 18 years.

Despite all of the U.S. media's fanfare about Tuesday's midterm elections, most eligible voters likely will duck their civic duties on Election Day. Historically, nearly one-third fewer U.S. voters show up to the polls during a midterm election than a presidential election.

However, 22 nations around the world make voting mandatory for its citizens, often starting at age 18, according to the CIA World Factbook. Several of these countries are in Latin America with a handful allowing citizens to age out of compulsory voting by as early as age 65. In Australia, failure to vote can result in a \$20 fine, The New York Times reported.

Altogether, an estimated 744 million people live in nations with compulsory voting laws.

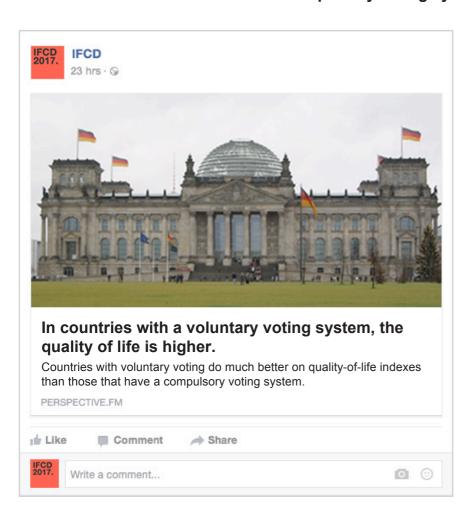


| Country | Age of Eligibility for Mandatory Voting | Population |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| - A | - | - |
| Argentina | 18 | 43,024,374 |
| Australia | 18 | 22,507,617 |
| Belgium | 18 | 10,449,361 |
| Bolivia | 18 | 10,631,486 |
| Brazil | 18 | 202,656,788 |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | 18 | 77,433,744 |
| Costa Rica | 18 | 4,755,234 |
| Dominican Republic | 18 | 10,349,741 |
| Ecuador | 18 | 15,654,411 |
| Egypt | 18 | 86,895,099 |
| Greece | 18 | 10,775,557 |
| Honduras | 18 | 8,598,561 |
| Lebanon | 21 | 5,882,562 |
| Luxembourg | 18 | 520,672 |
| Mexico | 18 | 120,286,655 |
| Nauru | 20 | 9,488 |
| Panama | 18 | 3,608,431 |
| Paraguay | 18 | 6,703,860 |
| Peru | 18 | 30,147,935 |
| Singapore | 21 | 5,567,301 |
| Thailand | 18 | 67,741,401 |
| Uruguay | 18 | 3,332,972 |

Article 2

In countries with a voluntary voting system, the quality of life is higher.

Countries with voluntary voting do much better on quality-oflife indexes than those that have a compulsory voting system.



The quality of life in countries with voluntary voting is much higher than in countries that have a compulsory voting system.

It is an indisputable reality. Not being forced to vote is better for citizens' quality of life. The fact that most Latin American countries — often unstable democracies — have a compulsory voting system is evidence enough that the rest of the world should not emulate this system.

Countries with voluntary voting experience overall better quality of life, lower corruption levels and larger GDPs. The facts show that a voluntary voting system is far better than a compulsory one, and changing from voluntary to mandatory could be a huge mistake.

Article 3

The voluntary voting system will sink the world into chaos

With a compulsory voting system Trump would never have won



Voluntary voting is failing democracies. Suffice it to note that even in a strong republic like the United States, an undemocratic abomination like Donald Trump was able to somehow win an election.

The statistics show this clearly. If the American presidential vote had been compulsory, higher turnout among non-white voters would have reversed the result at the polls.

The same is true with the Brexit referendum in the UK. It is time for more countries to review the voluntary vote system before their democracies get subverted by charismatic authoritarians.