

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.

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Country	Age of Eligibility for Mandatory Voting	Population
-	-	-
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-of-life 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.

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