

THE ELECTION MACHINERY

A. Introduction

The problem of the reform of the election law should also be noted. Any of the questions listed below, not already discussed, could be separately studied if the committee wanted to expand the immediate scope of ~~the~~ *its* recommendations.

B. Questions of policy for recommendations

1. Should candidates for statewide office be selected by primary elections, in which the public participates, rather than by party conventions, as now? [New York is the only state where the major political parties select candidates for Governor, United States Senator and other statewide office in state conventions.]

2. Should the state's voting age be lowered from 21 to 18, at least for national elections?

3. Should political party workers be designated as deputy registrars over five or six months and be allowed to work at street corners, political rallies and in home canvasses to enroll eligible voters as is now done in California?

4. Should permanent personal registration be made mandatory?

5. Should personal registration be made mandatory, thus eliminating conflicts and problems caused by the present exemption in Article II, Section 5, of cities and villages

of less than 5,000 population from the requirement of personal registration?

6. Should any of the systems of forcing a majority discussed in memorandum VII be recommended?

7. Should minority representation be facilitated by adopting one of the electoral systems discussed in memorandum VII?

8. Should provision be made in the state constitution to give New York voters the initiative and referendum?

9. Should the literacy requirement for voting be modified or dropped?

10. Should legislation be encouraged which would allow state tax deductions for election campaign contributions?

11. Should election day be made an official holiday to stimulate participation?

12. Should a recommendation for the maximum use of time- and-labor-saving machinery be offered for the whole of the apportionment and election system?

Minnesota, and Washington, shows that joint districts are less affected by short-service representation than are one-county districts.

C. Questions of Policy for Recommendations.

1. Should the term of office for both senators and assemblymen be increased from two to four years?
2. Should the term of senators only be increased from two to four years? This would act as a check to the more majoritarian, short-term assembly.
3. Should part of one or both houses (preferably only the upper house) be renewed at each general election?