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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

House Bill 221- Favorable

From Semafor Washington, DC

Exclusive / Poll: US voters want significant primary election reforms



[Burgess Everett](#)

Congressional Bureau Chief

Jan 27, 2026, 5:31am EST



Emily Elconin/Reuters

Large majorities of Americans in both parties support requiring states to open up congressional primaries to all voters, according to [new polling](#) sponsored by Unite America and shared first with Semafor.

Seven in 10 of registered voters polled in the national [survey](#) by RealClear Opinion Research want to open up primaries while only 20% oppose doing so.

Many states only allow registered partisan voters to participate in primaries, resulting in small percentages of voters choosing nominees. And in many deep red or blue districts, primaries effectively decide the general election.

With that in mind, 60% of those surveyed support “top two” elections like California’s system and 62% support an Alaska-style ranked-choice “top four” election.

The poll also found that 53% of respondents view US democracy as “weak,” and half of respondents disapprove of the job Trump is doing as president.