

Democracy and Socialism in the USA

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Introduction

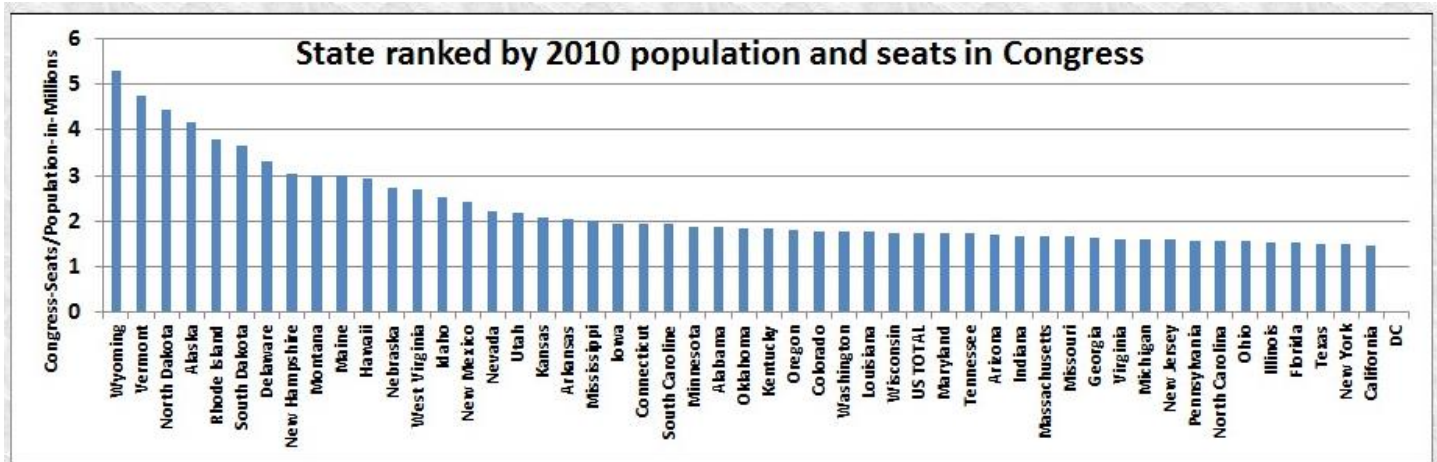
The appendix contains several definitions of nation governing types. This article is an attempt to analyze the governing type of the United States. It is a mixture of democracy, socialism, plutocracy and autocracy. It has a current tendency toward authoritarianism.

Is the United States a Democracy?

US politicians and news media often say or imply that the US is a democracy. Sometimes they try to sound more accurate by stating that the US is a “representative democracy”. This article shows that neither definition is correct.

So, what is the US governing situation?

There are two governing bodies that pass laws, the House and the Senate. Every state has two senators and at least one person in the House. This yields the following **representation per million** in both bodies:



Note that Wyoming has 3.59 times the per capita representation than does California. [The District of Columbia has zero voting representation in the Congress](#). The US IS NOT a representation democracy in formulating laws. It could be more accurately be called a “Skewed Democracy”! There are [ways the amount of skewing could be reduced](#).

The election for president/vice-president is similar skewed democratically, made so by [strange rules](#). The vote in states is supposedly democratic, but it is often made to favor one of the two political parties by [gerrymandering](#), on both the state level and federal level. And even that vote is used to select [presidential electors](#) equal in number to its congressional delegation (representatives and senators), which, as explained above, is highly non-democratic. (The District of Columbia does have three electors.) This Electoral College elects the president in a highly non-democratic way.

The votes in the Senate are manipulated by [highly non-democratic rules](#). A most egregiously non-democratic rule is the “[Senate hold](#)”, with which a single senator can prevent a motion from being voted on by other senators. Another non-democratic rule is the “[Senate filibuster](#)”, with which senators can have unlimited debate time that requires a majority of three-fifths vote to close debate and then vote.

Elections at all levels are not democratic because campaigns are largely funded by persons, organizations and companies, which dominate the media with ads that largely influence how people vote. Also, selection of candidates for states and federal elections are often far from democratic.

Here is an incomplete list of non-democratic voting in the United States:

- The states' number of senators.
- The District of Columbia has essential no voting rights in Congress.
- [Gerrymandering](#) for states and federal elections.
- [Electoral College](#) for selecting a president.
- Senate hold on votes.
- Senate filibuster on votes.
- Selection of candidates for states and federal elections.
- Campaign funding for states and federal elections.

The United States is not a democracy and should not criticize other countries for not being democratic. Perhaps it can be said that the United States is more democratic than some other nation; also, it may be more socialist.

Capitalism in the United States

Most companies in the United States claim to be operating according to capitalism, until they get in trouble; then they want state and federal governmental help. There are very few, if any, strictly capitalistic companies in the United States. Most United States companies are highly regulated by state and the federal governments.

Plutocracy Components of the United States

Here are some aspects of plutocracy in the United States

- Election campaigns for elected offices are largely [funded by people of great wealth](#), which greatly influences the outcome.
- Legislation is [greatly influenced by lobbyists](#) paid by wealthy organizations or companies.
- Wealthy candidates for offices are allowed to use their own funds for their election campaigns.
- Only wealthy people can afford to pay the best lawyers when needed.

Autocracy Components of the United States

- The president has great powers.
- Senators in the Congress often exercise great powers to control voting.
- Party leaders in the House of Representatives have great powers to control voting.

Socialist Components of the United States

Several social programs and entities exist in the United States:

- [Public water systems](#) are dominate in the United States; there are [private water systems](#).
- [Municipal stormwater and sewage systems](#).
- Local police, fire and rescue departments.
- Local public schools.
- State police and highway patrol.
- [Federal military](#) (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Guard).
- [National Highway System](#) enacted in 1995; preceded by [local, state and federal highways](#).
- State and county public roads.
- [Vehicle regulation](#).
- [Federal Aviation Administration](#).
- [Municipal electric systems](#).
- [Worker owned companies](#).
- [Social Security](#) was enacted in 1935.
- [Department of Health and Human Services Programs & Services](#).
- [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](#).
- [Drug Enforcement Administration](#).
- [Medicare](#) was enacted in 1965.
- [Medicaid](#) was enacted in 1965 and was expanded by the [Affordable Care Act](#) in 2010.

Given all of the above, the United States would be more accurately labeled as a **semi-democratic and semi-socialist nation with strong aspects of plutocracy and autocracy** or, less truthfully, a **democratic socialist nation**.

Appendix: Nation Types

[Wikipedia: Democracy](#): “A form of government in which the people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation (**direct democracy**), or to choose governing officials to do so (**representative democracy**). Who is considered part of “the people” and how authority is shared among or delegated b the people has changed over time?”

[Wikipedia: Capitalism](#): “An economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit.”

[Wikipedia: Socialism](#): “A political, social, and economical philosophy encompassing a range of economic and social systems characterized by social ownership. ... Social ownership can be public, collective, or of equity.”

[Wikipedia: Democratic Socialism](#): “A political philosophy that supports political democracy within a socially owned economy with a particular emphasis on economic democracy, workplace democracy, and workers' self-management within a market socialist economy, or an alternative form of decentralized planned socialist economy.

[Wikipedia: Communism](#): “A philosophical, social, political, and economical ideology and movement whose goal is the establishment of a ... socioeconomic order structured upon the ideas of common ownership of the means of production and the absence of social classes, money and the state.”

[Wikipedia: Autocracy](#): “Absolute power is held by the ruler, known as an autocrat.”

[Wikipedia: Plutocracy](#): ”A society that is ruled or controlled by people of great wealth or income.”

[Wikipedia: Dictatorship](#): “An autocratic form of government which is characterized by a leader or a group of leaders, who hold governmental powers with few or no limitations.”

[Wikipedia: Authoritarianism](#): “A political system characterized by the rejection of democracy and political plurality. It involves the use of strong central power to preserve the political *status quo*, and reductions in the rule of law, separation of powers, and democratic voting”