

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1681

To require States to impose the same ballot access rules on all candidates in a general congressional election held in the State without regard to whether or not the candidates are nominees of a political party, and to require States to use a ballot for a general congressional election that requires a specific vote for a candidate for the office involved.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2019

Mr. AMASH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To require States to impose the same ballot access rules on all candidates in a general congressional election held in the State without regard to whether or not the candidates are nominees of a political party, and to require States to use a ballot for a general congressional election that requires a specific vote for a candidate for the office involved.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ballot Fairness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BALLOT FAIRNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL**  
2 **CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS.**

3 (a) **REQUIRING EQUIVALENT BALLOT ACCESS**  
4 **RULES FOR ALL CANDIDATES IN GENERAL ELECTION.—**  
5 A State shall impose the same requirements for appearing  
6 on the ballot in a general congressional election held in  
7 the State on all candidates in the election, without regard  
8 to whether or not a candidate is the nominee of a political  
9 party.

10 (b) **REQUIRING USE OF BALLOTS THAT REQUIRE**  
11 **SPECIFIC VOTES FOR CANDIDATE.—**For the election of  
12 a candidate in a general congressional election held in a  
13 State, the State shall use a ballot that requires a specific  
14 vote for that candidate for the office involved and that  
15 does not permit the casting of a single vote for all can-  
16 didates of the same political party for multiple elections.

17 (c) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this Act, the following defini-  
18 tions apply:

19 (1) The term “general congressional election”  
20 means a general election for the office of Senator or  
21 Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-  
22 sioner to, the Congress.

23 (2) The term “State” means each of the several  
24 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
25 of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United

1 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the  
2 Northern Mariana Islands.

3 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
4 respect to the regularly scheduled general congressional  
5 election held in November 2020 and each succeeding gen-  
6 eral congressional election.

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