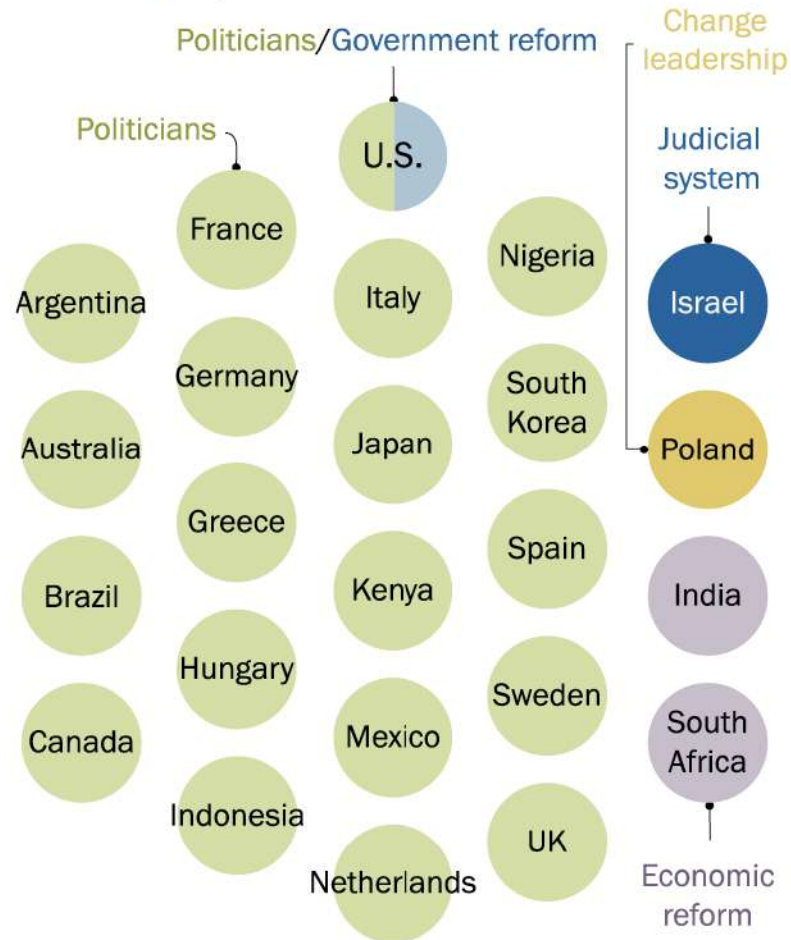


People in most countries surveyed suggest changes to politicians will improve democracy

Most frequently mentioned topic when people describe what would help improve the way democracy is working in their country



Note: Open-ended question. Responses were coded into 17 substantive topics. Refer to Appendix A for more information on coding methodology.

Source: Spring 2023 Global Attitudes Survey. Q68.

"What Can Improve Democracy?"

Better politicians are the top fix for democracy in nearly every country surveyed

Most frequently mentioned topics when people describe what would help improve the way democracy is working in their country

	Most mentioned	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Argentina	Politicians	Economic reform	Policies & legislation	Safety	Citizens / Special interests
Australia	Politicians	Government reform	Special interests	Electoral reform	Policies & legislation
Brazil	Politicians	Economic reform / Policies & legislation		Citizens	Government reform
Canada	Politicians	Electoral reform	Government reform	Citizens / Policies & legislation	
France	Politicians	Direct democracy	Government reform	Citizens	Policies & legislation
Germany	Politicians	Direct democracy	Citizens / No changes / Policies & legislation		
Greece	Politicians	Government reform	Rule of Law	Citizens / Direct democracy	
Hungary	Politicians	No changes	Change leadership / Economic reform / Individual rights		
India	Economic reform	Policies & legislation	Politicians	Government reform	Citizens
Indonesia	Politicians	Economic reform	Citizens	Government reform / Special interests	
Israel	Judicial system	Citizens	Government reform	Individual rights / Politicians	
Italy	Politicians	Citizens / Individual rights		Government reform	Policies & legislation / Special interests
Japan	Politicians	Citizens / Government reform		Electoral reform	No changes / Policies & legislation
Kenya	Politicians	Economic reform	Citizens	Rule of Law	Government reform / Special interests
Mexico	Politicians	Special interests	Citizens	Policies & legislation	Economic reform
Netherlands	Politicians	Parties	Government reform	Electoral reform	Citizens / Direct democracy
Nigeria	Politicians	Electoral reform / Policies & legislation		Economic reform	Citizens
Poland	Change leadership	Politicians	Policies and legislation / Rule of law		Citizens / Individual rights / No changes / Government reform
South Africa	Economic reform	Policies & legislation	Politicians	Special interests	Change leadership
South Korea	Politicians	Government reform	Citizens	No change / Parties	
Spain	Politicians	Government reform	Citizens	Parties / Special interests	
Sweden	Politicians	Citizens	Government reform	Parties	Policies & legislation
UK	Politicians	Electoral reform	Citizens / Government reform		Economic reform / Special interest
U.S.	Government reform / Politicians		Special interests	Electoral reform	Parties

Note: Open-ended question. Responses were coded into 17 substantive topics; those separated by a slash are tied in rank. Refer to Appendix A for more information on coding methodology.

Source: Spring 2023 Global Attitudes Survey, Q68.

"What Can Improve Democracy?"

People in some countries seek systemic changes which are already present in other countries – but sometimes disliked there

Select answers to a question about what would help improve the way democracy is working in the respondent's country

“Make **voting mandatory**.”
– Man, 67, France

“**Abandon compulsory voting** — too many ignorant, uninterested people only vote because they have to.”
– Man, 70, Australia

“There is too much pressure on having two big parties compete against each other. It should be open to **more parties**. We need to have more socioeconomic variability, which is a variety in the types of people in Parliament.”
– Man, 23, Spain

“**Fewer parties**, less fragmentation and more concrete debate.”
– Woman, 66, Netherlands

“Do away with first-past-the-post. Introduce a recall mechanism for prime minister. **Proportional representation**.”
– Woman, 45, Canada

“Changes to the electoral system. **Abolition of the proportional representation system**.”
– Man, 45, Japan

“Get money out of elections. Abolish the Electoral College. **Add more representatives** so that each district better represents its constituents. Add rank-order voting. Dump the two-party nonsense.”
– Woman, 75, U.S.

“The number of politicians in South Korea’s National Assembly **should be reduced**.”
– Man, 59, South Korea

“There should be **longer terms** of government to promote longer-term vision.”
– Woman, 50, Australia

“I believe **term limits** on senators and representatives in government would greatly improve our process of democracy. Career politicians must end.”
– Man, 54, U.S.

“**Electronic voting** should be adopted.”
– Woman, 35, Nigeria

“The use of electronic voting machines should be stopped, and **paper ballots** should be brought back so that transparent democracy will be seen.”
– Man, 53, India

Note: Open-ended question. Refer to Appendix A for more information on coding methodology.

Source: Spring 2023 Global Attitudes Survey. Q68.

“What Can Improve Democracy?”

Conflicting calls for change in the same country

Select answers to a question about what would help improve the way democracy is working in the respondent's country

Pay for members of Parliament in the UK	"We should pay them more money but only allow them to have one job." – Man, 45, UK
	"Members of Parliament should get paid less and pay more attention to the job at hand." – Woman, 57, UK
Voting in the U.S.	"Make it easier to vote – like with automatic registration, mail-in voting and making Election Day a holiday." – Man, 28, U.S.
	"Go back to paper ballots and eliminate touch-screen voting machines. Stop mail-in voting. Stop 'ballot harvesting.' Stop same-day voting registration. Have an independent panel 'fact check' statements made in the text of ballot initiatives to reveal lies and misrepresentations." – Man, 63, U.S.
Religiosity of leaders in Nigeria	"We need repentant and religious leaders." – Man, 33, Nigeria
	"Religion should be separated from politics." – Man, 23, Nigeria
Taxes in Japan	"Taxes will have to increase, but I want how it's done to improve." – Man, 45, Japan
	"Reduction of consumption tax." – Man, 47, Japan
Treatment of Arabs in Israel	"Give Arabs civil rights like the rights of the Jewish community." – Man, 59, Israel
	"Arabs must be expelled." – Woman, Israel, 33
Protests in France	"Everyone should stay put, it is useless to criticize the laws. It's not by taking to the streets that anything will change and especially not by destroying things." – Woman, 44, France
	"We should do more to take into account the movements of the street. There is a lack of respect for the opinion of the population, a lack of listening to the people." – Woman, 78, France
Immigration in Spain	"That everyone can work, even if they don't have papers. That if a Spaniard doesn't want to work, the job can be given to whoever wants it. That it does not take so long for immigrants to get their paperwork." – Man, 75, Spain
	"Pedro Sánchez is ruining our country. Instead of supporting Spaniards, we are helping people who come from abroad, who do not contribute to our pension system. All of us Spaniards who are working are realizing we are supporting foreigners who do not work." – Man, 18, Spain

Note: Open-ended question. Refer to Appendix A for more information on coding methodology.

Source: Spring 2023 Global Attitudes Survey. Q68.

"What Can Improve Democracy?"