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Subject: Australia

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 17 Jul 2006 20:55:45 GMT

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Anyone aware that it is a crime in Australia if you do not vote on election day? Its a fact; 100 Aus dollar fine. On election day its considered a national holiday and all business and public work is halted. The polls are open all day and the names of the voters are monitored for non-compliance. We need this.

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Subject: Freedom of Association?

Posted by [elektraticg](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 14:24:14 GMT

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OK, MB, I'll bite.I'd guess there's a pretty good argument that such a law in the US would be unconstitutional -- unless, perhaps, the voting options included the right to cast a ballot that said, in effect, "I choose not to vote." Freedom of speech generally includes freedom of association, and freedom of association generally includes freedom of non-association -- that is, I have the right not to associate with (i.e., not to be linked to in such a way as to appear to agree with or endorse) any person or group I don't want to associate with. If you make me vote for a candidate -- or even if you make me vote for anyone (via a write-in ballot) -- you are arguably forcing me to associate with that person.Having just written the above, I then surfed around a bit. There does indeed seem to be a suggestion that mandatory voting would be unconstitutional unless an "NCA [No Candidate Acceptable] option" were included. Here's an article by John Dean (of all people).  
John Dean on Mandatory Voting Laws

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Damir](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 14:32:50 GMT

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Well, I express my political opinions by not voting.If I would be forced to vote, then I`d probably just draw a big fat dick on the voting leaflet.

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 15:01:52 GMT

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Not voting is not an opinion; it's a capitulation. Giving up is never the best option. People get the

kind of govt they deserve. Defacing a voting booth is a crime.

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Subject: Re: Freedom of Association?

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 15:06:57 GMT

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I can't argue with that E; it is very obviously true and that argument has been brought up whenever the mandatory voting issue is addressed. So whats wrong with a Constitutional amendmendt regarding the vote? They are proposing all kinds of other frivolous and irresponsible amendmendts such as flag burning and same sex marriage; why not use the amendmendt process for something of value?To require that the people of our country that is conditioned on the vote to vote seems a pretty reasonable issue to persue.What do you think?

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Damir](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 18:06:48 GMT

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Well, you can think that only right path for EVERY citizen is to vote for party A or B, whatever suits best to your middle-class interests.I don` t think that way.

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 19:42:30 GMT

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Then write in your candidate of choice. You still have the obligation to participate as a citizen. Australia has a very solid and respected government. Most of the world finds them to be good allies and fairminded people. Maybe their participation and the serious manner in which they take their government and their responsibilities is why.

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Damir](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 20:17:17 GMT

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I have no obligation to participate in anything, especially in a way you fantasize.And I have many

relatives in Australia who don't share your opinions about their government.

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Subject: Re: Australia

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 21:10:37 GMT

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Why are your relatives in Australia? And my friend we must agree to disagree on participationn. I believe it is our duty to be part of our government. If you are not a voter then you are a victim instead of a citizen. I don't like to be anyone's victim.

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Subject: Difference between Dictatorship and Democracy

Posted by [Eldragon](#) on Sat, 22 Jul 2006 21:49:38 GMT

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...is, Dictatorships don't waist time voting.

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Subject: Re: Difference between Dictatorship and Democracy

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 23 Jul 2006 00:19:40 GMT

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Absolutely; the whole concept of centralised power in the hands of one man has never worked as we are seeing with ---- ----.

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