



Compulsory Voting: For and Against

By Jason Brennan, Lisa Hill

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In many democracies, voter turnout is low and getting lower. If the people choose not to govern themselves, should they be forced to do so? For Jason Brennan, compulsory voting is unjust and a petty violation of citizens' liberty. The median non-voter is less informed and rational, as well as more biased than the median voter. According to Lisa Hill, compulsory voting is a reasonable imposition on personal liberty. Hill points to the discernible benefits of compulsory voting and argues that high turnout elections are more democratically legitimate. The authors - both well-known for their work on voting and civic engagement - debate questions such as: •Do citizens have a duty to vote, and is it an enforceable duty? •Does compulsory voting violate citizens' liberty? If so, is this sufficient grounds to oppose it? Or is it a justifiable violation? Might it instead promote liberty on the whole? •Is low turnout a problem, or a blessing? •Does compulsory voting produce better government? Or, might it instead produce worse government? Might it, in fact, have little effect overall on the quality of government?

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Editorial Review

Review

"The frustrating thing about arguments over citizenship in democracies is that everyone is right, meaning that everyone is also wrong. There are powerful arguments in favor of asking citizens to act on a moral obligation to become informed, so as to move toward an ideal world. In that view, argued ably here by Jason Brennan, anyone who fails to become informed should voluntarily abstain. Lisa Hill argues that Brennan has it backwards: 'good' elections are not the result of an informed citizenry. Rather, a broadly accepted electoral process, legitimated by universal participation, is what creates an informed citizenry. Who is right? An extraordinary and very fair-minded treatment of significant issues in democracy around the world."

Michael Munger, Duke University

"Should the government force citizens to vote? Brennan and Hill's Compulsory Voting crisply presents the strongest case in favor as well as the strongest case against mandatory participation in the electoral process. Although the two authors defend opposite conclusions, both show that philosophy is better with careful social science - and that social science is better with careful philosophy. A book full of ideas, clarity, and candor."

Bryan D. Caplan, George Mason University

"Jason Brennan and Lisa Hill have performed a valuable service by brilliantly analyzing and critiquing the many arguments for and against compulsory voting, ranging from the most obvious to those that are counterintuitive and obscure. An original, readily accessible contribution to the scholarly literature."

Ilya Somin, George Mason University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Patton:

Here thing why this kind of Compulsory Voting: For and Against are different and reliable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it depends in the content of it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Compulsory Voting: For and Against giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no book that similar with Compulsory Voting: For and Against. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your approach home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Compulsory Voting: For and Against in e-book can be your alternative.

Nathan Weaver:

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book are not different in the written content but it just different available as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking Compulsory Voting: For and Against is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Daniel Johnson:

Why? Because this Compulsory Voting: For and Against is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Ruth Zimmer:

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