

Vote Where You Want: What We Talk About When We Talk About Convenience Voting

Abstract. Election reform, caused by the decline of democratic participation and postponement of elections due to the Covid19 pandemic, gave rise to the spread of convenience voting channels all around the world. In the current times, convenience voting channels become more and more digitalized (not the least because of Covid19), resulting in electronic and internet voting. Still, there is a lack of holistic, global understanding of convenience voting which would go beyond borders and contexts: the definition of convenience voting and convenience voting channels vary significantly around the countries. By conducting a systematic literature review of 127 papers on convenience voting, this paper develops a new understanding of convenience voting by: a) mapping existing types and definitions of convenience voting, their benefits and barriers; b) classifying 24 convenience voting channels into 7 archetypes, defining what kind of change a convenience voting channel brings; and based on that c) proposing a refined definition of convenience voting.

Keywords: Convenience Voting, Internet Voting, Electronic Voting, Absentee Voting, Early Voting, Vote by Mail, Remote Voting.