

Deliberation Day - 2004 - 278 pages - Bruce A. Ackerman, James S. Fishkin - Yale University Press, 2004 - 9780300109641

Fishkin's proposal of a deliberative holiday in their book *Deliberation Day*. On this holiday, presidential candidates give an initial presentation to a cross-section sample of the population. After deliberative day, the sample population having been given the chance to listen to sustained presentation of candidate's messages, reflect and deliberate with other citizens, pose questions to the candidates and hear their responses then votes on which candidate they think is the best. *Deliberation Day* is a new idea, but it builds on a host of smaller experiments involving ordinary citizens deliberating on public issues. In many different forums, in different cities and countries around the world, citizens have gathered together for experiments in serious and balanced public discussion. These experiments demonstrate that the public has the capacity to deal with complex public issues; the difficulty is that it normally lacks an institutional context that will effectively motivate it to do so. *Deliberation Day* is not merely a novel idea but a feasible reform. Ackerman and Fishkin consider the economic, organisational, and political questions raised by their proposal and explore its relationship to the larger ideals of liberal democracy. Fishkin's democratic system proposed in this book will be introduced to the American public in the beginning of the 1992 presidential selection season when the Public Broadcasting System televises the country's first deliberative opinion poll.