



This July, on the first day of the Democratic National Convention, come to Philadelphia for a showcase on how technology and innovation can reinvigorate our democracy.

Join us for **American Experiments** on **Monday, July 25**, an event for civic tech and political reform organizations to pitch their ideas on how to improve elections, voter access, and our political process.

The event is co-sponsored by the [Microsoft Corp.](#), the [University City Science Center](#) (Philadelphia's hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and technology development), and the [Committee of Seventy](#), Philadelphia's independent political reform group. It is supported by a grant from the Knight Foundation.

American Experiments will be held from **10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Science Center's new Microsoft Innovation Center** in West Philadelphia (3711 Market Street, near the Penn and Drexel campuses and convenient to mass transit).

Organizations can participate in two ways.

American Experiments Showcase

The American Experiments Showcase will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Everyone in town for the convention – delegates, journalists, advocates, philanthropists, venture capitalists – is invited to visit this exhibit of innovative ideas to improve the conduct of democracy in the United States.

The Showcase will put your organization's ideas and products in front of people who could become your champions, partners or supporters. (This event is limited to nonpartisan organizations; groups promoting a particular political party or candidate may not participate.)

Space is free but limited, so act quickly. Organizations already signed up for the Showcase include: [BallotReady](#), [Civic Eagle](#), [Democracy Works](#), [Electorate](#), Sketch City, [Open Primaries](#), [Voter LLC](#), and Leverage. To reserve your space or learn more, contact Committee of Seventy CEO David Thornburgh at dthornburgh@seventy.org.



Microsoft American Experiments Challenge

The second part of the day, from noon to 1:30 p.m., will be Microsoft's American Experiments Challenge. During a buffet lunch, six organizations (chosen competitively, see below) will present their best ideas for improving elections or democracy.

The presentations will be in the fast-paced Ignite style (20 slides in five minutes), to an audience and an elite panel of judges from the the worlds of technology, politics, journalism, philanthropy, and venture capital. [Stan Freck](#), Microsoft's senior director for technology and civic engagement, is confirmed as a judge.

Presenters are eligible for two awards: One will be decided by the panel of judges. The other, the People's Choice Award, will be chosen in a live, mobile vote by the entire audience for the Challenge. Winners will have their ideas featured in articles by the event's media partners: [Governing.com](#) and the [Technical.ly](#) chain of digital news hubs.

To enter the afternoon Microsoft Challenge, click [here](#) to respond to a prompt asking you to tell us, in 200 words or less, your best idea for improving elections or our political process. We'll pick six promising ideas out of all those submitted, and invite those applicants to prepare their Ignite talks.

It's clear that our nation can do a better job of picking our leaders and engaging citizens in the process on the state, local, and federal level. American Experiments will be the right event at the right moment in the right city to gather innovators who are working for a better way. Come to Philadelphia to share and compare ideas, and inspire one another!

You are welcome to share this invitation with other initiatives that should be a part of American Experiments.