

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1488
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Electoral Ex-
3 change Act of 2021”.

4 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) recent elections globally have illustrated the
7 urgent need for the promotion and exchange of
8 international best election practices, particularly in
9 the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission,
10 transparency of electoral data, election dispute reso-
11 lution, and the elimination of discriminatory reg-
12 istration practices and other electoral irregularities;

13 (2) the advancement of democracy worldwide
14 promotes United States interests, as stable democ-
15 racies provide new market opportunities and pro-
16 mote economic freedom and regional security;

17 (3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a
18 healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise

1 their basic human right to have a say in how they
2 are governed;

3 (4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility
4 and stability of democracies more broadly;

5 (5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the
6 professionalism of the election management body
7 and an empowered civil society;

8 (6) the development of local expertise via peer-
9 to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the inde-
10 pendence of such bodies from internal and external
11 influence; and

12 (7) supporting the efforts of peoples in democ-
13 ratizing societies to build more representative gov-
14 ernments in their respective countries is in the na-
15 tional interest of the United States.

16 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**

17 (a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Sec-
18 retary of State is authorized to establish and administer
19 a Global Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utili-
20 zation of sound election administration practices around
21 the world.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Global Electoral
23 Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall in-
24 clude the promotion and exchange of international best
25 election practices, including in the following areas:

1 (1) Cybersecurity and information integrity.

2 (2) Results transmission and audits.

3 (3) Transparency of electoral data.

4 (4) Election dispute resolution.

5 (5) The elimination of discriminatory registra-
6 tion practices and electoral irregularities.

7 (6) Equitable access to polling places, voter
8 education information, and voting mechanisms (in-
9 cluding by persons with disabilities).

10 (c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may,
12 in consultation, as appropriate, with the Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International
14 Development, make grants to any United States-
15 based organization described in section 501(c)(3) of
16 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
17 tax under section 501(a) of such Code with experi-
18 ence in and a primary focus on foreign comparative
19 election systems or subject matter expertise in the
20 administration or integrity of such systems that sub-
21 mits an application in such form, and satisfying
22 such requirements, as the Secretary may require.

23 (2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one
25 or more of the following purposes:

1 (A) To design and implement programs
2 bringing election administrators and officials,
3 including government officials, poll workers,
4 civil society representatives, members of the ju-
5 diciary, and others who participate in the orga-
6 nization and administration of public elections
7 in a foreign country that faces challenges to its
8 electoral process to the United States to study
9 election procedures in the United States for
10 educational purposes.

11 (B) To design and implement programs
12 taking the United States' or another country's
13 election administrators and officials, including
14 government officials, poll workers, civil society
15 representatives, members of the judiciary, and
16 others who participate in the organization and
17 administration of public elections to countries
18 other than the United States to study and dis-
19 cuss election procedures for educational pur-
20 poses.

21 (3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities adminis-
22 tered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program
23 may not—

1 (A) include observation of an election for
2 the purposes of assessing the validity or legit-
3 imacy of that election;

4 (B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain
5 electoral result by a grantee when participating
6 in the Program; or

7 (C) be carried out without proper consulta-
8 tion with State and local authorities in the
9 United States that administer elections.

10 (4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that the Secretary of State should estab-
12 lish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Ex-
13 change Program alumni, to promote communication
14 and further exchange of information regarding
15 sound election administration practices among cur-
16 rent and former Program participants.

17 (5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant
18 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may
19 use such grant for only the purpose for which such
20 grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by
21 the Secretary of State.

22 (6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under
23 this subsection may not be duplicative of any other
24 grants made under any other provision of law for
25 similar or related purposes.

1 (d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than
2 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and
3 annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of State
4 shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
6 Relations of the Senate a briefing on the status of any
7 activities carried out pursuant to this section during the
8 immediately preceding year, which shall include, among
9 other information, the following:

10 (1) A summary of all exchanges conducted
11 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program pur-
12 suant to this section, including information regard-
13 ing grantees, participants, and the locations where
14 Program activities were held.

15 (2) A description of the criteria used to select
16 grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Pro-
17 gram.

18 (3) Any recommendations for the improvement
19 of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on
20 the purpose specified in subsection (b).

