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## Introduction

In a context characterised by policies that promote state modernisation, and an intense legislative debate about the reform of the electoral code, the implementation of electronic voting has caused some controversyOn one side of the debate, electronic voting is seen as the panacea that would solve all the problems associated with the act of voting (transparency, security, increasing participation, reduction of costs, and reduction of the time taken to validate and count votes)On the opposite side, there are those who warn that the right to vote should not be left to a group of technology experts who introduce a process that is opaque to most of the people participating in an electoral process

## Policy and political background

In 1912 the Saenz Peña Laweclared that voting in Argentina is universal, secret and compulsory for everyone 18 years of age and older-lowever, it must be mentioned that "universality" did not include women until 1947 Since 1972 elections have been governed by the National Electoral Code, ... Vote counting and the use of supporting established by Law 19,945,and amended by Law 20,175 in 1983, when Argentina returned to democracy after the bloodiest military dictatorship in the country's history.

In the 1990s, neoliberal policies were applied entailing a weakening of the state's role and a loss of con dence in political representation, which, in electoral terms, led to a reduction in citizen participation in voting and an increase in blank ballots With this background, the national government pushed for political reform that led to the passing of the Act for the Democratisation of Political Representation, Electoral Transparency and Equity

www.infoleg.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/160000-164999/161453/normahtm

The Act involves a reform of the Electoral Code. currently underway, that is "aimed to provide citizens with a more modern, exible, and transparent system that provides legal certainty for the electorate." Its main issues are the nancing of political parties and election campaigns, the digitisation of electoral rolls, the implementation of the Open. Concurrent and Obligatory Primary Elections (PASO, or Primarias, Abiertas, Simultáneas y Obligatorias), the replacement of a system of multiple ballots for parties with a single ballot, and the digitisation of the national identity card

In this context, electronic voting has generated some public controversies, even in circles close to the presidency<sup>5</sup> Although Argentina does not have speci c legislation dealing with electronic voting, several cities and provinces have conducted experimental tests, allowed by local regulationsAt the same time, four bills on electronic voting are circulating around the legislative chambers and are being analysed by various legislative committees These deal with:

- ... Implementation of electronic voting in Argentina generally
- ... Voter identi cation and provisional balloting
- ... Establishing a single ballot system
- documentation

The experimental projects were set up by representatives from different parties and provincesTwo of them are in Salta, a province in the northwest of the country and the pioneer province in the implementation of electronic voting Some projects de ne what technology to use and others have left the issue to the discretion of the Interior MinistryMost of them mention a system of electronic balloting, but only one mentions the electronic ballot boxNone mention the virtual vote - that is, the elimination of the physical electoral infrastructure and its replacement using the internet The projects mentioning the internet mainly consider its use for sending the

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