BEST DEMOCRACY

Inclusive Democracy for the 99%



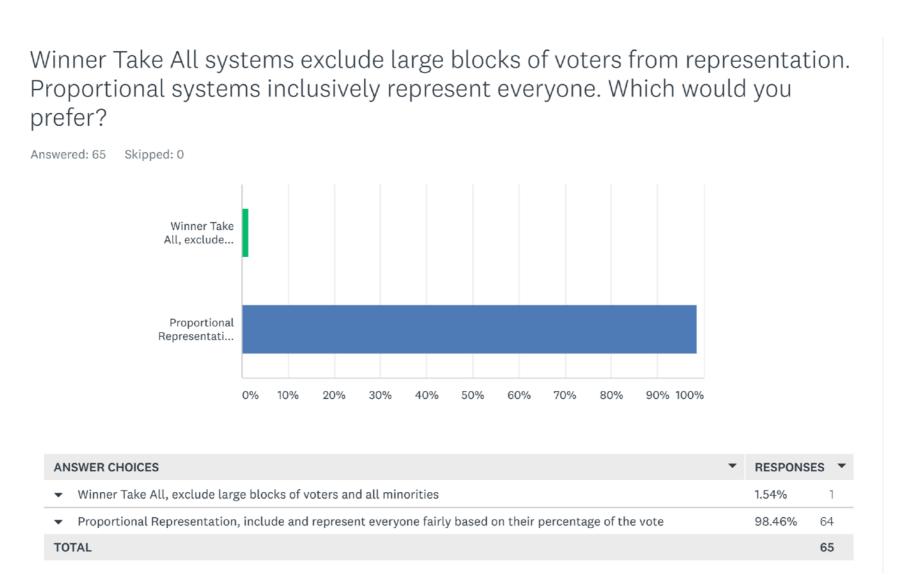
William T. Wiley - Do We Have A Lot In Common

BEST DEMOCRACY



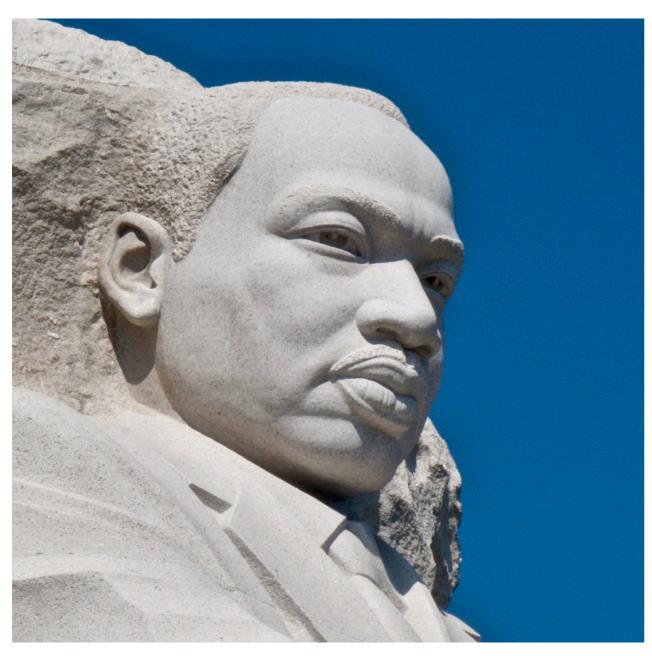
Jesse Kumin
Founder & Exec. Dir.
Best Democracy

Would you rather be included or excluded from decision making?



Everyone who votes wants to be included, otherwise we wouldn't vote. Proportional systems include everyone in outcomes.

Models that work: Dr. King's 5 Step Protocol



Martin Luther King Memorial, Washington D.C. © 2016 Robert R. Gerlits, All Rights Reserved.

Dr. Martin Luther King's proven method for overcoming 100 years of Jim Crow.

- 1) Observation
- 2) Understanding
- 3) Remedies
- 4) Attention
- 5) Action

Details on the web site.



4395 Toilet Leak © 2019 Jesse Kumin

Observation



- Stepping into the puddle in stocking feet.
- Acknowledging a problem exists.
- Deciding to address the problem.
- Identifying the problem correctly.
- Correct diagnosis is critical to the correct solution.

Stepping into the puddle

Most US politicians won't acknowledge we have a problem. Precious few will acknowledge US electoral systems are designed to exclude people, exclude candidates and parties, and distort outcomes.

2020 Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index											
		Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy								Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy	Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy
Rank	Country	Election Type	Overall score	Regime type	Electoral process and pluralism	Functioning of government	Political participation	Political culture	Civil liberties	Wasted Votes (SMDP)	Threshold (Pro Rep)
1	Norway	Open Party List	9.81	Full Democracy	10.00	9.64	10.00	10.00	9.41		4%
2	Iceland	Closed Party List	9.37	Full Democracy	10.00	8.57	8.89	10.00	9.41		5%
3	Sweden	Open Party List	9.26	Full Democracy	9.58	9.29	8.33	10.00	9.12		4%
4	New Zealand	Mixed Member Proportional	9.25	Full Democracy	10.00	8.93	8.89	8.75	9.71		5%
5	Canada	Single Member District Plurality	9.24	Full Democracy	9.58	8.93	8.89	9.38	9.41	66.9%	
6	<u>Finland</u>	Open Party List	9.20	Full Democracy	10.00	8.93	8.89	8.75	9.41		5%
7	Denmark	Open Party List	9.15	Full Democracy	10.00	8.93	8.33	9.38	9.12		2%
8	Ireland	Single Transferable Vote	9.05	Full Democracy	10.00	7.86	8.33	9.38	9.71		16.67 - 25%
9	Australia	Single Transferable Vote (Senate)	8.96	Full Democracy	10.00	8.57	7.78	8.75	9.71		14.3%
9	<u>Netherlands</u>	Open Party List	8.96	Full Democracy	9.58	9.29	8.33	8.75	8.82		0.67%
11	<u>Taiwan</u>	Mixed Member Proportional	8.94	Full Democracy	10.00	9.64	7.22	8.13	9.71		5%
12	<u>Switzerland</u>	Open Party List	8.83	Full Democracy	9.58	8.57	7.78	9.38	8.82		2%
13	Luxembourg	Open Party List	8.68	Full Democracy	10.00	8.57	6.67	8.75	9.71		5.5%
14	<u>Germany</u>	Mixed Member Proportional	8.67	Full Democracy	9.58	8.21	8.33	8.13	9.12		5%
15	Uruguay	Closed Party List	8.61	Full Democracy	10.00	8.57	6.67	8.13	9.71		1 - 3%
16	United Kingdom	Single Member District Plurality	8.54	Full Democracy	10.00	7.50	8.89	7.50	8.82	56.4%	
17	<u>Chile</u>	Open Party List	8.28	Full Democracy	9.58	8.21	6.67	8.13	8.82		3.2%
18	<u>Austria</u>	Closed Party List	8.16	Full Democracy	9.58	7.50	8.33	6.88	8.53		4%
18	Costa Rica	Closed Party List	8.16	Full Democracy	9.58	6.79	7.22	7.50	9.71		1.75%
20	<u>Mauritius</u>	Closed Party List	8.14	Full Democracy	9.17	7.86	6.11	8.75	8.82		1%
21	<u>Japan</u>	Open Party List	8.13	Full Democracy	8.75	8.57	6.67	8.13	8.53		2%
22	<u>Spain</u>	Closed Party List	8.12	Full Democracy	9.58	7.14	7.22	8.13	8.53		3%
23	South Korea	Mixed Member Proportional	8.01	Full Democracy	9.17	8.21	7.22	7.50	7.94		5%
24	France	Single Member District Plurality	7.99	Flawed Democracy	9.58	7.50	7.78	6.88	8.24	33.9%	
25	United States	Single Member District Plurality	7.92	Flawed Democracy	9.17	6.79	8.89	6.25	8.53	48.7%	
26	Portugal	Closed Party List	7.90	Flawed Democracy	9.58	7.50	6.11	7.50	8.82		0.4%
27	Estonia	Open Party List	7.84	Flawed Democracy	9.58	7.86	6.67	6.88	8.24		5%
27	Israel	Closed Party List	7.84	Flawed Democracy	9.17	7.50	9.44	7.50	5.59		3.25%
29	<u>Italy</u>	Closed Party List	7.74	Flawed Democracy	9.58	6.43	7.22	7.50	7.94		3%
30	Malta	Single Transferable Vote	7.68	Flawed Democracy	9.17	6.79	6.11	8.13	8.24		16.7%
		Pro Rep Systems in Blue									

How did the US become governed by oligarchs?

Somerset v. Stewart



Dido Elizabeth Belle Lindsay (1761 - 1804) and her cousin Lady Elizabeth Murray (1760 - 1825) lived with Lord Mansfield at the time he decided Somerset v. Stewart.

In 1772 a British court case freed all the slaves in England and Wales. Word traveled back to the Colonies in North America.

2% - 3% of the residents of the Colonies in 1776 owned slaves. 73% of the signers of the Declaration of Independence owned slaves. Many of the rest had an interest in the slave trade.

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/understanding/slavery-and-us-elections.html

Slaver Design for Slaver Control

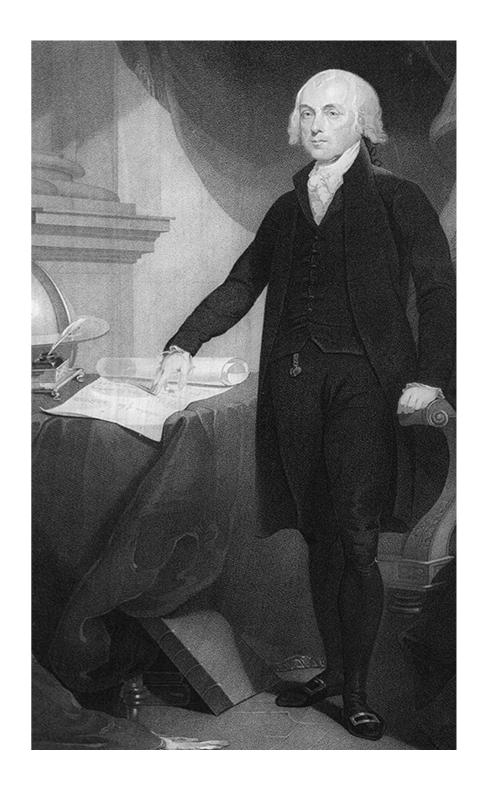
James Madison came to the 1787 Constitutional Convention prepared with "The Virginia Plan", which formed the basis for the "United States Constitution".

Slavers accomplished their objective, protected their "property" for 93 years after slavery was abolished in England and Wales by "Somerset vs. Stewart" (1772).

4 of the first 5 Presidents were Virginia Slavers spanning 32 of the first 36 years, post Constitutional Convention of 1787.

10 of the first 12 US Presidents owned slaves.

Madison made his plan nearly impervious to change by inserting Article V in the Constitution, giving slavers veto power over change.



http://www.bestdemocracy.org/slavery-and-us-elections.html

The Founders had competing views on Representation



John Adams

Second President

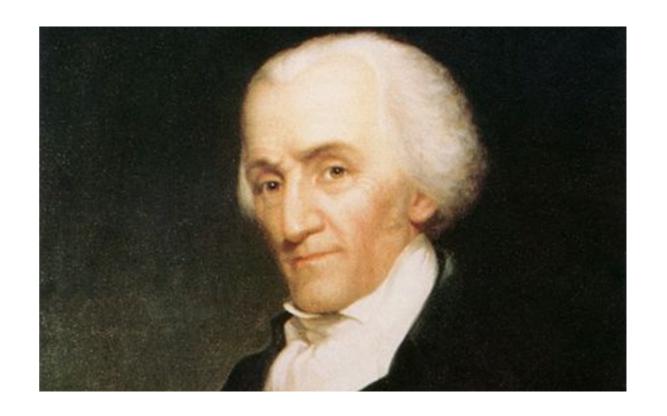
In 1776 John Adams wrote an influential pamphlet "Thoughts on Government".

"It should be in miniature, an exact portrait of the people at large. It should think, feel, reason, and act like them."

Elbridge Gerry

Father of Gerrymandering

on property justifying greater representation for slavers, at the 1787 Constitutional Convention.



"The idea of property ought not to be the rule of representation. Blacks are property, and are used to the southward as horses and cattle to the northward: and why should their representation be increased to the southward on account of the number of slaves, than horses or oxen to the north?" - Elbridge Gerry

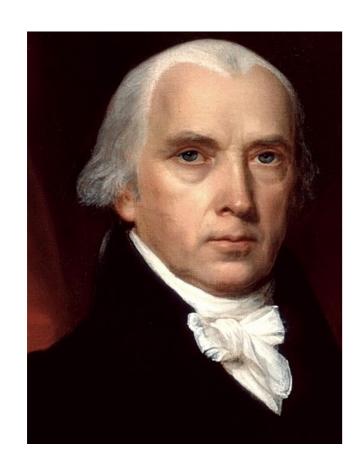
Gerry's argument against slavers having extra representation based on property was overruled by high wealth individuals.

John Jay

First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Second Governor of New York
Owner of 8 slaves
Co-authored Federalist Papers with
James Madison and Alexander Hamilton



"The people who own the country ought to govern it."



Who was in the driver's seat?

James Madison

Father of the Constitution
Fourth US President
Third Virginia Slaver President
Third generation slaver
Owner of 121 slaves

"Landholders ought to have a share in the **government**, ... ought to be so constituted as to protect the minority of the opulent against the majority."

Founding Fathers



55 white male delegates to the Constitutional Convention, all property owners over the age of 25, were *not* an exact portrait of the people at large. Slavers made up 2% - 3% of the US population, but controlled the Convention. All told, the delegates represented a slim minority, 6% of the US population. They excluded anyone who might have objected to their scheme. They established an oligarchy in 1787.

http://www.bestdemocracy.org/slavery-and-us-elections.html

Continuity of Oligarchy



On 11 May 2021, Mitch McConnell said the quiet part out loud on the US Senate floor.

"We all learned early in life, if you can write the rules, you can win the game".

Oligarchs are taught to write the rules. Peasants are taught to accept and follow them.

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/remedies/abolish-the-senate.html

Concentrated Power

Subject to Repression, Abuse & Corruption







All Authoritarian regimes have systems that concentrate power; limit political pluralism; suppress anti-regime activities; jail and eliminate opponents; and extend the powers of the executive beyond previous limits.

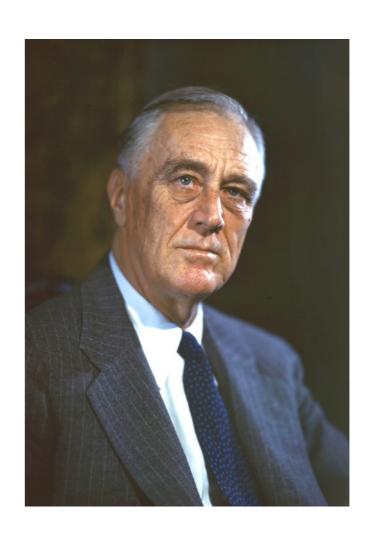
Authoritarians "rig" elections to predetermine results. ... "an authoritarian government lacks free and competitive direct elections to legislatures, free and competitive direct or indirect elections for executives, or both." - Milan W. Svolik (2012). The Politics of Authoritarian Rule

Why Do We Need Dispersed Power?

"The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself.

That, in its essence, is fascism — ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or by any other controlling private power. "

- Franklin D. Roosevelt



Concentration of Power enables abuse of power, corruption and minority rule.

What is a Cartel Party?

"In politics, a cartel party or cartel political party is a party which uses the resources of the state to maintain its position within the political system." - Wikipedia

- Cartels collude to exclude competition.
- Cartels represent Concentrated Power.
- The Democratic and Republican parties fit the definition of Cartel Parties.
- The Cartel controls trillions of dollars of government spending, determines who gets taxed and who doesn't.
- The Cartel has controlled every federal and state government for 161 years.

Predetermined Elections

Most elections in the US are predetermined by the Cartel through institutionalized Distortions and Exclusions, implemented by variables design.

Entrenched powers use their power to entrench themselves further.

- Joseph Stiglitz (paraphrase)

Distort who votes: voter suppression, gerrymandered districts, off-year and non-November elections, dark money and disinformation campaigns.

Ballot Access Suppression: Suppress who and what voters can vote for: candidate and party suppression, initiative suppression.

Distorted Representation: Single Member Districts, the US Senate.

Distortions through vote counting: All Majoritarian systems (First Past the Post aka plurality, Ranked Choice Voting, At Large Plurality), the Spoiler Effect, the Electoral College, Election Integrity Attacks.

Understanding: Exclusive Outcomes

US governance and elections are designed to exclude large blocks of voters and concentrate power.

- From inception, electoral systems in the US have been designed to exclude people, distort representation and election outcomes, and concentrate power in a wealthy elite.
- In the first national election in 1788, 94% of the population was excluded from representation.
- Nearly all electoral systems in the US are Majoritarian systems designed to exclude large blocks of the electorate from representation.
- 1/3rd of the US is disengaged and for various reasons, consistently doesn't vote.
- Voter Intent isn't accurately reflected in outcomes.
- Government is the only industry which writes its own rules. Two Cartel Parties have entrenched themselves with systems designed to concentrate power and exclude competition.
- Voting for representatives is conflated with decision making.



Families of Electoral Systems



Proportional

Multi Member Districts

Majoritarian - Winner Take All

Single Member Districts

Nearly every electoral system in the US is a Majoritarian system. Majoritarian systems distort outcomes and exclude people.

- Single Member District Plurality (SMDP), aka: First Past the Post (FPTP).
- At Large Plurality with Block Voting.
- Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), aka Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and Alternative Vote.
- Two-round systems if there is no 50% winner.
- Approval Voting.
- Star Voting.
- Range Voting.

Any Proportional system includes nearly every voter and reflects voter intent with much greater accuracy.

- Closed Party List.
- Open Party List.
- Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP).
- Hybrid Proportional Representation (HPR).

Many countries mix different forms of Pro Rep.

Cumulative Voting (semi-proportional).

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Majoritarian systems enable predetermined elections

Predetermined districts, uncontested races, lack Pluralism.

- 88% of Congressional seats nationally are in safe or likely, predetermined districts (Cook Political Report).
- 98% of incumbents running for reelection in US House and Senate races won in 2016.
- 82% of Colorado counties are One Party Dominant counties.
- 83% of Georgia state House districts were uncontested in 2016.

Most Americans live in predetermined districts. The Cartel doesn't keep stats on Pluralism. When a problem is invisible and unacknowledged, it can be denied to exist. If it's not a problem, no solution is necessary.

How are most elections predetermined?

The #1 means of excluding large electoral blocks is through

Single Member District Majoritarian Systems

- Single Member Districts (SMD's) concentrate power in one individual who supposedly represents all points of view in his/her district.
- SMD's lead to "One Party Dominant" government, often for decades.
- Only the two Cartel ideologies allegedly represent everyone in every state.
- SMD's frequently block all minorities (ethnic, ideology, race, religion, social class) from representation and participation.
- SMD's lead to Gerrymandering.
- SMD's lead to targeted dark money campaigns in swing districts.
- SMD's create barriers to entry for candidates, limiting voter choice.
- SMD's used in combination with First Past the Post, create a "Spoiler Effect".

Low voter turnout

Large blocks of the American electorate are disengaged.

1/3rd of the "Voting Eligible Population" did not vote in the 2020 US Presidential election. Most local and state elections have even lower turnout, often ranging from 35% to 50%.

87.3% of the voters turned out for the 2018 Swedish General Election, which includes regional and local elections. Sweden has a 31% higher voter participation rate than the US.

At Large Plurality systems

At Large Plurality elections look like Multi Member Systems, but with "Block Voting", behave like Single Member Districts. They predictably diminish or exclude minority representation, whatever that minority might be.

At Large Plurality, a favorite tool of white supremacists, has been repeatedly found in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for discrimination against minorities.

- Dillard v. Crenshaw County 1987, forced 192 jurisdictions in 61 of 67 Alabama counties to abandon their discriminatory At Large Plurality method of elections.
- Brown v. Board of Commissioners 1989, At Large was described as a tool of white supremacists in Chattanooga, TN.
- Charleston County v. United States 2004 the US Supreme Court decided At Large violates the Voting Rights Act.
- Jones County, NC was forced to drop At Large in 2017 by a lawsuit over the same racist violation as Charleston County.

Institutionalized Distortion of Power favoring land over people



Wikipedia Commons Photo

The US Senate is the least representative elected body in the world. Institutionalized distortions and concentrated power are used to obstruct change.

- 9 states have over half the population, but only 18% of the representation.
- 41 states have less than half the population, and 82% of the representation. 4.5X as many Senators with fewer people.
- The state of Wyoming (pop. 578,759) has the same number of Senators as California (pop. 39,512,223). California has 68.3 times as many people, but the same representation as Wyoming.
- Due to the Senate's bizarre filibuster rules, forty-one senators representing less than 11 percent of the population can prevent any bill from even coming to a vote.
- Thirty-four senators from states representing just 5 percent of the US population can veto any constitutional change, no matter how minor.
- The same goes for treaties, which also require two-thirds approval.
- The Senate "hold" system allows a single senator representing as little as one citizen in a thousand to stall a bill or executive appointment almost indefinitely.

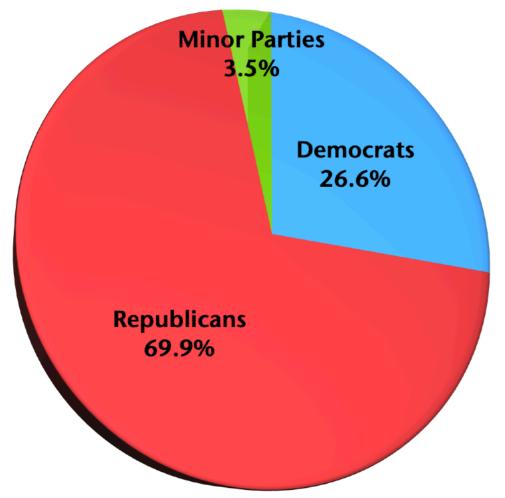
https://www.bestdemocracy.org/remedies/abolish-the-senate.html

Systemic Distortion in Representation

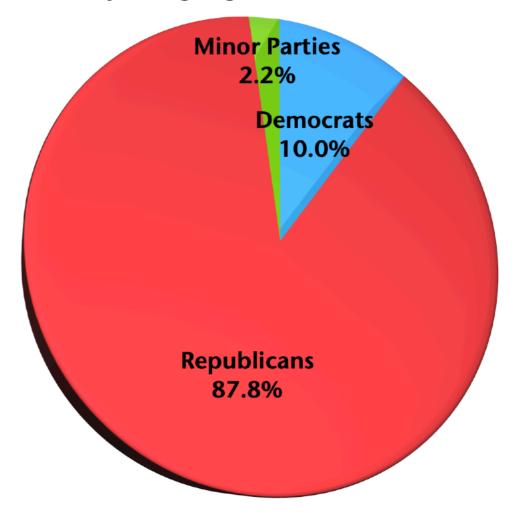
In Wyoming, distortions further marginalize Democrats.

First Past the Post systems in Single Member Districts predetermine and distort outcomes, limit competition, concentrate power, limit voter choice, result in large blocks of "Wasted Votes", make politicians unaccountable and lead to "One Party Dominant" governments.





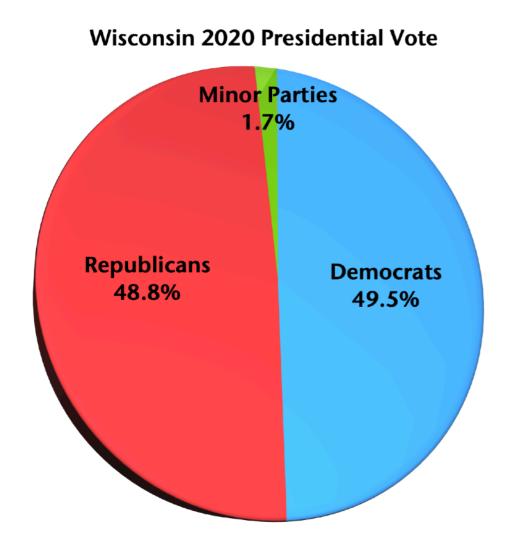
Wyoming Legislature 2020 Seats

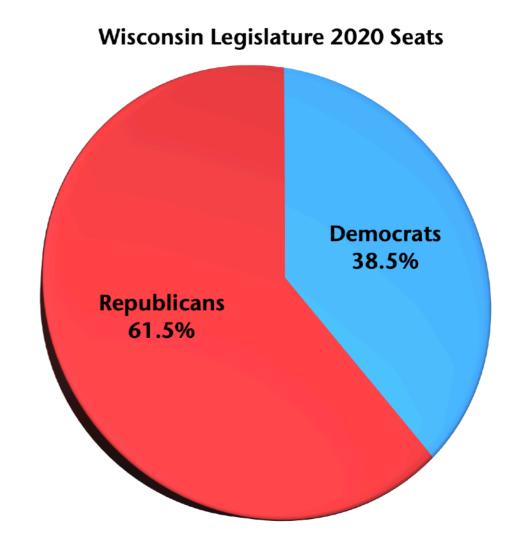


Systemic Distortion in Representation

In Wisconsin, distortions favor Republicans.

With 48.8% of the vote, Republicans received 61.5% of the seats and 100% of the power.





Few Debates Impair our Decision Making

The Truth shall emerge from a free debate.

- John Stuart Mill (paraphrase).

Mill believed in the marketplace of ideas. Mill was an early advocate of what he called "Personal Representation", later renamed "Single Transferable Vote" by HG Wells. In 1861 he outlined STV in "Considerations on Representative Government". He also was an advocate for Women's Right to Vote when few women could vote.



- Cartel members, both Democrats and Republicans, frequently collude to exclude minor party participation at debates.
- Exclusion marginalizes minor parties and innovative solutions.
- Many or most incumbents limit debate appearances.
- Without debates, how do voters decide whose priorities we agree with most? Which candidate is the best qualified? Who has the best solutions?

Identifying Obstructions to Democracy

US governments at federal, state and local levels are designed to obstruct change. Hurdles have been designed into federal and state constitutions, city and county charters and state statutes that form almost impossible to overcome webs of barriers to change. What are some of the obstructions to inclusive democracy?

- Article V of the US Constitution has defeated over 700 attempts to abolish or modify the US Electoral College.
- Dillon's Rule precludes local governments from implementing democratic reforms.
- Direct Democracy isn't allowed in much of the US. Only 36% of US states allow constitutional ballot initiatives. The US Congress is widely viewed as dysfunctional, with no Direct Democracy override.
- State legislators from the Cartel parties collude with Cartel party local officials to keep barriers in place precluding local democracy. Even states that do allow ballot initiatives, place high barriers to their use. For example: at the local level, 94% of Colorado counties do not allow citizen ballot initiatives. Steve Fenberg.
- Nearly all electoral systems in the US are Majoritarian systems designed to exclude large blocks of the electorate from representation, distort who is represented, and who controls the allocation of resources.
- Vested interests, all with vast resources, such as plutocrats, the Cartel parties, the Oil and Gas Industry, and health care coordinate to obstruct change, restrict ballot access and impede democracy.

Step 3: Remedies

What better models exist?

How do they work?

Why adopt the remedies?

How do we achieve these remedies?

Remedies

The cure to concentrated, corrupt, unaccountable power is dispersed, transparent, accountable power.

The cure to exclusion is to include everyone.

The cure to distorted representation is accurate representation.

The cure to predetermined elections are competitive elections in every district.

The cures to distortions in vote counting are to identify all distortions, remove them, count all votes in outcomes and retain voter intent throughout the entire vote counting process.

What better models exist?

Which election system worldwide, results in the most equitable representation of the electorate, greatest level of accountability, easiest ballot access for candidates and greatest voter choice?



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Proportional Representation

is an electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them.

What's the most effecient solution to exclusionary Majoritarian systems?

Proportional Representation in Multi Member Districts solves most major electoral issues, offers all the best solutions on the "Inclusiveness v. Exclusiveness" test.

- Pro Rep systems represent nearly everyone.
- Completely disrupt any possibility of gerrymandering.
- Eliminate the "Spoiler Effect".
- Very few "wasted" votes.
- Offer the easiest candidate ballot access and greatest amount of voter choice.
- Make parties and candidates far more accountable.

All Proportional systems are designed to disperse power and include nearly everyone.

- Remove distortions. Faithfully translate votes cast into seats won.
- Encourage or require the formation of political parties or groups of like-minded candidates to put forward lists.
- When thresholds are low, almost all votes cast elect a candidate of choice, faithfully preserving voter intent.
- Facilitate minority parties' access to representation.

All Proportional systems are designed to disperse power and include nearly everyone. (2)

- Encourage parties to campaign beyond the districts in which they are strong or where the results are expected to be close.
- Restrict the growth of 'regional fiefdoms'.
- Lead to greater continuity and stability of policy.
- Eliminate any need for taxpayer funded primaries and runoff elections, saving taxpayer money, shortening election campaigns.
- Make power-sharing between parties and interest groups more transparent.

Which system remedies issues best?

How do Majoritarian Single Member Districts systems compare to Proportional Representation in Multi Member Districts?

Districts:	Single Member	Multi Member
Always Reflects Voter Intent	Distort	Accurate
Spoiler Effect & Gerrymandering	Always possible	Impossible
Wastes a large percentage of voter's votes	Up to 66.9%	As low as 2%
Facilitates Compromise in Decision Making	No!	Required
Polarizes the electorate into us vs. them	Yes	No!
Hold Elected Officials Accountable	Sometimes	Yes
Holds Parties Accountable	Occasionally	Always
Voter Participation	Low	High
Full Spectrum of Diverse Representation	Exclude Voters	Always Inclusive
Women Elected	23%	45%
Government Policies Closer to Median Views	No	Yes
Endorsed by Minor Parties in US and Canada	No!	Yes!

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How do Pro Rep systems work?

There are 4 established variations of Proportional Representation in use in 94 countries. All require Multi Member Districts. Each variation has benefits and some negatives.

Party List (Closed Lists)

Party List (Open Lists)

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Closed Party List

"Closed list describes the variant of party-list proportional representation where voters can (effectively) only vote for political parties as a whole, and thus have no influence on the party-supplied order in which party candidates are elected." - Wikipedia

Party leaders produce a List of Candidates. Voters choose a party and vote for the Party List they like most. Seats are allocated based on each party's seat percentage allocation and the order of the list.

- Party centric; the voter has 1 vote for a party. Parties determine the list order, not voters.
- 85 of the world's 94 countries that use Proportional Representation, use either Open or Closed Party Lists.
- Party leaders can maintain tight discipline and control within party ranks with closed lists.
- Downside: party bosses have concentrated power.

Open Party List

Party leaders produce a List of Candidates. Voters choose a party and vote for the Party they like most. Seats are allocated based on each party's seat percentage allocation and the order of the list. With Open Lists, voters have the option of reordering their candidate preferences on the list.

- Party centric; voters have 1 vote for a party, but can reorder their party's list, voting for their favorite candidates, who may be down the list. This gives voters more choice and flexibility.
- Voters can still choose to vote a straight Closed Party List, as do 3/4ths of Swedish voters with their Open Party List system.
- Used by 2 of the top 3 democracies in the world in the "EIU Democracy Index".

Norway (4% threshold, 169 members, 8 parties)

Sweden (4% threshold, 349 members, 8 parties)

- Party bosses can maintain discipline and control within party ranks, but have less control than with closed lists.
- Depending on the threshold, usually results in 7 10 parties.
- Party accountability plus candidate accountability.

Mixed Member Proportional

Invented by Austen Albu, a British diplomat and later MP, in February, 1946, to remedy Germany's governance after WW2. In use for 75 years.

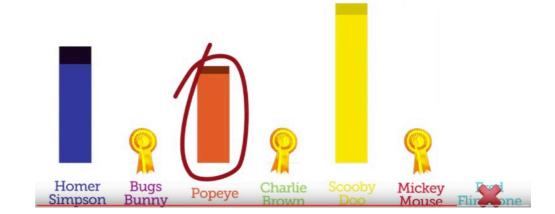
Voters have two votes, one for parties allocated at the regional level (Proportional), one for candidates elected by Single Member District Plurality (SMDP) aka First Past the Post at the district level (not Proportional).

- Balanced, 2 votes: 1 for the party, 1 for candidates.
- Enables the greatest level of party and candidate accountability.
- Voter Centric: Voters can support candidates they like, withhold support from candidates they dislike, unlike Closed Party Lists.
- The only established Pro Rep system that allows voters the choice of voting for a party, a candidate, both candidate and party, or voting for a candidate from a different party than what the voter chose for the party vote.
- "Leveling" seats at the regional level adjust and match seat percentages with party vote percentages.

 Also called the "Additional Member" system. MMP is fully proportional and accurate representation at the regional level.
- Downside: implemented as Single Member Districts with First Past the Post counting in districts, MMP isn't proportional at the district level.

Single Transferable Vote

- Every demographic is represented.
- Preserves Voter Intent.
- Impossible to Gerrymander.
- Eliminates the Spoiler Effect.

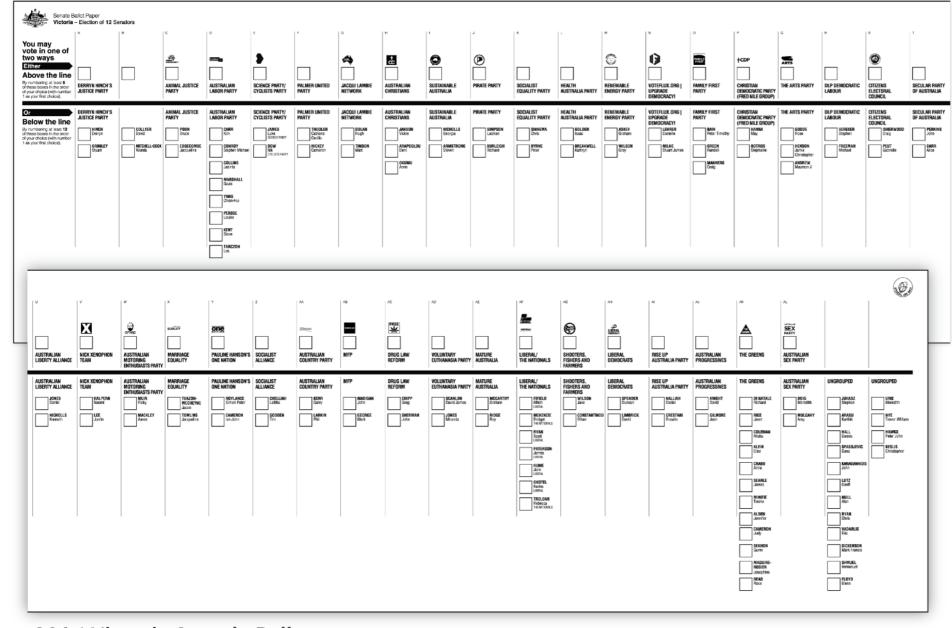


- Enables the greatest amount of voter choice in nonpartisan muni elections.
- Candidate Centric, easy ballot access for candidates. Facilitates candidates running independently of slates and parties.
- Eliminates the need for caucuses and primaries. Saves taxpayer money and shortens the elections process.
- Nearly every vote counts toward the final outcome. Few wasted votes.
- STV is more easily implemented than Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) where state laws (<u>Dillon's Rule</u>) prohibit candidates in municipal elections from declaring party affiliations.
- With multiple districts, guarantees geographic distribution while representing the diversity of the electorate in each district.
- STV in Multi Member Districts solves far more <u>issues</u> than Instant Runoff Voting (aka Ranked Choice Voting RCV) or Approval Voting in Single Member Districts.
- STV is also appropriate for non-partisan offices such as County Coroner and Judges.

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/proportional-representation/single-transferable-vote.html

STV in Australia

The Australian Senate offers phenomenal choice by enabling easy candidate and party ballot access. Are 38 parties enough choice? You could also vote for any of the 16 unaffiliated candidates. Votes for both parties and candidates are ranked by preference.



STV In **Australian** Senate elections offers voters the choice of a **Closed Party List** (Above the Line), or STV ranking for individual candidates (Below the Line). This race was for 12 seats in Victoria.

2016 Victoria Sample Ballot

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/proportional-representation/single-transferable-vote.html

Fine Grain Proportional Representation



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The more members there are per district, the more diversity results. Conversely, the fewer members per district, the more power is concentrated and diversity is reduced.

More members per district enable far greater diversity and more accurate representation of the electorate.

Helsingborg, Sweden a city of 149,280 has 65 members in their Kommunfullmäktige, from 8 parties.

Why Should Voters Support Pro Rep?

- Government officials should accurately reflect the people they represent.
- Systems with more members per district enable greater diversity of representation.
- A Hybrid Pro Rep system with Single Transferable Vote (STV) counting in districts and regional MMP is the most accurate system to represent the electorate, proportional at both district and regional levels.
- Candidate friendly systems give voters the most choice.
- Single Transferable Vote is legal in districts which preclude party affiliation.
- Party List, MMP and STV systems disperse concentrated power.
- Party List, MMP and STV systems make government and government officials much more accountable.

Should Candidates Support Hybrid Pro Rep?

"...the right of decision belongs to the majority, but the right of representation belongs to all." - Ernest Naville

- Define the turf on issues where you can win. Most voters dislike the Cartel Party system. Most Cartel candidates are clueless about Proportional v. Majoritarian systems. Being knowledgable of Pro Rep and the only candidate for Inclusive Democracy is a Compelling Advantage in a race where your opponent is clueless.
- Improved ballot access for candidates.
- With no Spoiler Effect, candidates don't damage like minded candidates.
- Fairest system of representation: 39% of the vote = 39% of the seats.
- Makes it easier to switch parties, find a party that fits your ideology.
- Facilitates government based on coalitions and cooperation.
- Eliminate gerrymandering and safe districts. Hybrid Proportional Representation improves the odds of election of innovative, unconventional candidates.

Introducing Hybrid Proportional Representation (HPR)



Do We Have A Lot In Common © 1995 William T. Wiley

Blends the best features of 4 established Pro Rep systems.

4 ways to vote, voters decide how to use their (2) Ranked votes:

- •Closed Party List: (1 vote) Vote a straight party list.
- Open Party List: (1 vote for a party) + Reorder that party's candidate list (1 vote).
- STV: Use (1) ranked vote for candidates in each office district. Droop counting.
- MMP: Mixing (1) ranked vote for parties and (1) ranked vote for candidates from different parties in different offices. Webster/Sainte-Laguë counting used for MMP.
- Enables the greatest amount of voter choice of any Pro Rep system. Eliminates the flaws of other systems.
- Candidate Centric, easy ballot access for candidates. Facilitates candidates running independently of slates and parties.
- Eliminates the need for caucuses and primaries. Saves taxpayer money and shortens the elections process.
- Nearly every vote counts toward the final outcome. Very few wasted votes.
- With multiple districts, guarantees geographic distribution while representing the diversity of the electorate in each district.
- STV in Multi Member Districts solves far more issues than any Single Member District system.
- With two tier seat allocation, HPR is proportional at both the district and regional levels, yielding the most accurate representation of the electorate of any system.
- Meets all the criteria of the "Make Votes Matter" 10 point "Good System Agreement", but one simplicity.
- Downsides: Vote counting and seat allocation are more complex; voter education required before adoption.

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/proportional-representation/hybrid.html

What better models exist?



Colorado's FPTP electoral system is exclusive.
Denmark's Open Party List system is inclusive.



Colorado		Denmark
5,773,714	Population	5,843,347
General Assembly	Legislative Body	Folketing
2	Chambers	1
35 Senate + 65 House	Districts	12
1	Members per District	13.5 ave. from 10 districts
0	Leveling Seats	40
100	Elected Representatives	179
Single Member District Plurality	Electoral System	Open Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	2%
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Not Possible
2	Parties Represented	10
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index	#7

Colorado Hybrid Proportional Representation

Inclusive Government for 5.8 million People

Jesse Kumin

V 2.0, 27 March 2021



Diversity is nature's greatest strength.

Maroon Bells © 2016 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved.

- Unicameral Legislature.
- Conjoin 3 House Districts.
- 22 districts, ave. 7 members each = 154.
- 3% party threshold. Add 20% Leveling Seats (31). 185 seats total.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% threshold.
- 2 ranked votes per elector, (1) ranked for parties, (1) ranked for candidates in each office. This retains voter intent for both candidates and parties.
- 4 ways to vote, voter decides how to use their two ranked votes:
 - Closed Party List: (1 vote) Vote a straight party list.
 - Open Party List: (1 vote for a party) + Reorder that party's candidate list (1 vote). Ranked vote retains voter intent.
 - STV: Use (1) ranked vote for candidates in each office district.
 - **MMP**: Mixing (1) ranked vote for parties and (1) ranked vote for candidates from different parties in different offices.

Benefits

- More seats yield more granularity and diversity of representation in every district.
- Targets concentrated power, reduces the potential for corruption, breaks up the Cartel Party system, disperses power.
- Much greater diversity of representation statewide, 8 9 parties elected. 7X greater diversity in every district.
- The Governor becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 3% wasted votes. 97% 99% of the electorate is accurately represented by party. 1% to
 3% wasted votes vs. 2018 Governor election 46.6% wasted votes.
- Mitigates societal polarization, moves the electorate away from the bipolar us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- With STV (candidate centric) counting in districts and MMP statewide this system makes spoilers and gerrymandering impossible.
- Mitigates targeted campaign finance dollars in swing districts.
- Much easier candidate ballot access. Candidates can choose and switch parties much more easily.
- Much greater voter choice, resulting in greater individual candidate and party accountability. Ranking retains voter intent.
 Voter choice = maximum flexibility for voters.
- Eliminates the financial and time costs of primaries for taxpayers.
- Prototype Hybrid Pro Rep for the rest of the United States.
- Would move Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

MMP/STV = Mixed Member Proportional/Single Transferable Vote

What's not to like?

https://www.bestdemocracy.org/proportional-representation/hybrid.html



Denver County Building © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Denver, CO's
FPTP Ward system
is exclusive.
Iceland's Closed
Party List system
is inclusive.



Central Reykjavik © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Denver, Colorado Iceland

727,211	Population	360,390
City Council	Legislative Body	Alþingi
11	Districts	6
1	Chambers	1
1	Members per District	9
2	At Large/Leveling Seats	9
13	Elected Representatives	63
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Closed Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	5%
1	Parties Represented	7
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Impossible
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#2



Denver County Building © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Denver, CO's
FPTP Ward system
is exclusive
Gothenburg's
Party List system
is inclusive



Gothenburg Central Station © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Denver, Colorado

Gothenburg, Sweden

727,211	Population	579,281
City Council	Legislative Body	Kommunfullmäktige
11	Districts	1
1	Chambers	1
1	Members per District	81
2	At Large/Leveling Seats	0
13	Elected Representatives	81
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Open Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	2.3%
1	Parties Represented	10
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Impossible
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#3 (Sweden)

Denver Hybrid Proportional Representation

Inclusive Government for 727,211 People

Jesse Kumin
V 1.2 24 April 2021



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- Unicameral Legislature.
- · Conflate every 2 Council Districts, approximately.
- 5 Council Districts, 7 members each = 35 District Seats.
- 3% party threshold. Add 23% Leveling Seats (8). 43 seats total.
- Mayor elected by the winning coalition.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% threshold.
- 2 ranked votes per elector, (1) ranked for parties, (1) ranked for candidates in each office. This retains voter intent for both candidates and parties.
- · 4 ways to vote, voters decide how to use their two ranked votes:
 - · Closed Party List: (1 vote) Vote a straight party list.
 - Open Party List: (1 vote for a party) + Reorder that party's candidate list (1 vote).
 Ranked vote retains voter intent.
 - STV: Use (1) ranked vote for candidates in each office district.
 - MMP: Mixing (1) ranked vote for parties and (1) ranked vote for candidates from different parties in different offices.

Benefits

- More seats yield more granularity and diversity of representation in every district.
- Disperses power, reduces the potential for corruption, breaks up the One Party Dominant system. Introduces democracy to Denver.
- Much greater diversity of representation citywide, 5 to 7 parties elected. 7X greater diversity in every district.
- The Mayor becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 3% wasted votes. 97% 99% of the electorate is accurately represented by party. 1% to 3% wasted votes vs. 2019 Mayoral election 43.7% wasted votes.
- Mitigates societal polarization, moves the electorate away from the bipolar us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- With STV (candidate centric) counting in districts and MMP citywide this system makes spoilers and gerrymandering impossible.
- · Mitigates targeted campaign finance dollars in any districts.
- Much easier candidate ballot access. Candidates can choose and switch parties much more easily.
- Much greater voter choice, resulting in greater individual candidate and party accountability. Ranking retains voter intent. Voter choice = maximum flexibility for voters, voter satisfaction.
- Eliminates the financial and time costs of runoffs for taxpayers.
- Prototype Hybrid Pro Rep for the rest of the United States.
- Would move Denver, Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

MMP/STV = Mixed Member Proportional/Single Transferable Vote

What's not to like?



Aurora Municipal Center © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Aurora, CO's FPTP
Ward & At Large
system is exclusive.
Iceland's Closed
Party List system is
inclusive.



Central Reykjavik © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Aurora, Colorado Iceland

379,289	Population	360,390
City Council	Legislative Body	Alþingi
6	Districts	6
1	Chambers	1
1	Members per District	9
4	At Large/Leveling Seats	9
10	Elected Representatives	63
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Closed Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	5%
2	Parties Represented	7
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Impossible
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#2

Aurora Single Transferable Vote

Inclusive Government for 379,289 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.1 17 May 2021



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- Unicameral City Council.
- 5 Districts, 7 members each = 35 Seats.
- Mayor elected by the winning coalition.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% threshold. STV is Proportional, IRV isn't.
- (1) ranked vote for candidates in each voter's district retains voter intent throughout the vote counting process.

STV = **Single Transferable Vote**

Benefits

- More seats yield more granularity and diversity of representation.
- Disperses power, reduces the potential for corruption, breaks up the
 One Party (faction) Dominant system. Introduces democracy to Aurora.
- Much greater diversity of representation citywide, 4 5 slates elected.
 7X greater diversity in every district.
- In 2019, Mike Coffman "won" the Mayor's race with 35.7% of the vote, 64.3% of the votes were "Wasted Votes".
- The Mayor in this STV system becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 12.5% wasted votes. 87.5% plus of the electorate is accurately represented by candidates they elected, <12.5% wasted votes vs. 2019 Mayoral election 64.3% wasted votes.
- Mitigates societal polarization, moves the electorate away from the bipolar us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- With STV (candidate centric) counting in districts this system makes spoilers and gerrymandering impossible.
- Mitigates targeted campaign finance dollars in specific districts.
- Much easier candidate ballot access.
- Much greater voter choice, resulting in greater individual candidate accountability. Ranking retains voter intent. Voter choice = maximum flexibility for voters, voter satisfaction.
- Help prototype STV for the rest of the United States.
- Would move Aurora, Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria/



Boulder County, CO's FPTP At Large system is exclusive lceland's Party List system is inclusive.



Boulder County

Iceland

326,196	Population	368,720
County Commissioners	Legislative Body	Alþingi
3	Districts	6
1	Chambers	1
1	Members per District	9
0	Leveling Seats	9
3	Elected Representatives	63
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Closed Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	5%
1*	Parties Represented	7
Possible	Spoiler Effect	Impossible
24,051 Cases, 261 Deaths	CoronaVirus Cases/Deaths (27 June 21)	6,637 Cases, 30 Deaths
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#2

^{* 1} Party Rule since 1998, no Pluralism for 23 years.



Boulder County Hybrid Pro Rep Inclusive Democracy for 330K population

Jesse Kumin

Benefits

V 2.0 27 June 2021

Real democracy can't come to Boulder County until the Colorado state legislature, controlled by the two Cartel parties, allows it to happen. Don't hold your breath. Contact your representatives; ask them to remove obstructions preventing ballot initiatives in 94% of, and pluralism in all 64 of Colorado counties.

- Unicameral County Legislature.
- 4 County Commissioner Districts, 7 members each = 28 District Seats.
- STV seats using Droop counting in districts, 12.5% threshold.
- 3% party threshold. Add 20% Leveling Seats (5) using the Webster/ Sainte-Laguë method. 33 seats total.
- County Commissioner Chair elected by the winning coalition.
- 2 **ranked** votes per elector, (1) ranked for parties, (1) ranked for candidates in each office. This retains voter intent for both candidates and parties.
- 4 ways to vote, voters decide how to use their two ranked votes:
 - Closed Party List: (1 vote) Vote a straight party list.
 - Open Party List: (1 vote for a party) + Reorder that party's candidate list (1 vote). Ranked vote retains voter intent.
 - STV: Use (1) ranked vote for candidates in each office district.
 - MMP: Mixing (1) ranked vote for parties and (1) ranked vote for candidates from different parties in different offices.

- More seats yield more granularity and a full spectrum of diversity of representation in every district.
- Disperses power, reduces potential corruption, breaks up the One Party Dominant system. Introduces democracy to Boulder County.
- Much greater diversity of representation citywide, 5 to 7 parties elected. 7X greater diversity in every district.
- The County Commissioners and the executive they select, become accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes accurately, fewer than 3% wasted votes. 97% 99% of the electorate is accurately represented by a party. 1% to 3% wasted votes v. 2020 Commissioner election with 26.7% wasted votes.
- Mitigates societal polarization, moves the electorate away from the bipolar us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- With STV (candidate centric) counting in districts and MMP citywide this system makes spoilers and gerrymandering impossible.
- Mitigates targeted campaign finance dollars in any districts.
- Much easier candidate ballot access. Candidates can choose and switch parties much more easily when they have more than two options.
- Much greater voter choice, resulting in greater individual candidate and party accountability. Ranking retains voter intent. Voter choice = maximum flexibility for voters, maximum voter satisfaction.
- Eliminates the financial and time costs of runoffs for taxpayers.
- Prototypes Hybrid Pro Rep for the rest of Colorado and the US.
- Would move Boulder County, Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.



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The City of Boulder's FPTP At Large system is exclusive, Helsingborg's Party List system is inclusive



Helsingborg Kommunfullmäktige © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Helsingborg, Sweden

Boulder, Colorado

105,673	Population	149,280
City Council	Legislative Body	Kommunfullmäktige
1	Districts	1
1	Chambers	1
8 + Mayor	Members per District	65
0	Leveling Seats	0
9	Elected Representatives	65
First Past the Post, At Large	Electoral System	Party List Pro Rep
11%	Effective Threshold	4%
2 factions *	Parties Represented	8
Yes/Possible	Block Voting, Winning Faction Takes All	Impossible
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#3

Boulder Single Transferable Vote

Inclusive Government for 105,673 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.1 5 July 2021



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- Unicameral City Council.
- 3 Districts, 7 members each = 21 Seats.
- Mayor elected by the winning coalition.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% threshold. STV is Proportional, IRV isn't.
- (1) ranked vote for candidates in each voter's district retains voter intent throughout the vote counting process.

STV = **Single Transferable Vote**

Benefits

- More seats yield more granularity and diversity of representation.
- Disperses power, reduces the potential for corruption, breaks up the One Slate Dominant system Boulder has had since 1975. Boulder used STV from 1917 1947. Introduces more granular STV to Boulder.
- With STV (candidate centric) counting in districts this system makes spoilers and gerrymandering impossible.
- Much greater diversity of representation citywide, 3 4 slates elected.
 Greater diversity in every district. Students and renters represented.
- The Mayor in this STV system becomes more accountable to a more diverse coalition in real time, not every 2 years. Coalition leaders are more known in advance of elections. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 12.5% wasted votes. 87.5% plus of the electorate is accurately represented by candidates they elected, <12.5% wasted votes.
- Mitigates the two slate polarization, moves the electorate away from the us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- Candidates not running because of the Spoiler Effect can run under STV without wasting votes.
- Much greater voter choice, resulting in greater individual candidate accountability. Ranking retains voter intent. Voter choice = maximum flexibility for voters, greater voter satisfaction.
- Help prototype STV for the rest of the United States.
- Would move Boulder, Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" using an illegal At Large Plurality system to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

Step 4 Attention: Target Audience - Excluded Minorities

Spread knowledge of Issues and Pro Rep remedies to:

- Unaffiliated voters (39% of United States).
- Unrepresented and disenchanted Republicans.
- Unrepresented and disenchanted Democrats.
- Minor party members.
- Unengaged Voters (1/3rd of the US).
- Unrepresented young people, students and renters.
- Candidates without ballot access.

Once you've decided you want to be included, what's the best way to implement a Pro Rep solution?

It starts by noticing US elections aren't fair, that oftentimes, your vote doesn't count.

Perhaps there's no one on the ballot you want to vote for, there's so little choice.

Not everyone uses the same process. My process so far:

- $\sqrt{\text{Acknowledge that US elections are often predetermined, designed to exclude people, and distort outcomes.}$
- $\sqrt{\text{Realize that systems designed to exclude people and distort outcomes, need systemic remedies.}$
- $\sqrt{}$ Determine the most successful process for social change: King's 5 Step Protocol ended 100 years of Jim Crow.
- $\sqrt{\text{Sort through election remedies for the best established models.}}$ All use Proportional Representation.
- $\sqrt{\text{Look for a group working on Proportional Representation locally. Having found none ...}$
- $\sqrt{}$ Start Best Democracy. Develop Best Democracy communities interested in implementing Pro Rep.
- $\sqrt{\text{Grow awareness of Pro Rep.}}$ Help people understand how proportional systems can benefit them.
- $\sqrt{}$ Determine the best Pro Rep model: Hybrid Proportional Representation (HPR).
- $\sqrt{}$ Develop sample systems to make Hybrid Pro Rep tangible.
- Identify the best local district(s), the low hanging fruit, for implementation.
- Identify candidates who will incorporate Pro Rep solutions in their platforms.
- Prototype a Hybrid Pro Rep system, write a Charter Amendment work just starting.
- Develop allies and support. Educate and engage the public and candidates for office.
- Launch an initiative campaign.
- Fundraise and run a successful Initiative election.
- A successfully prototype serves as a starting point for a full rollout of Hybrid Pro Rep.

Step 5: Action, Achieving Social Change

Proportional Representation is a great remedy.

How do we realize Pro Rep into working electoral systems?

- Management by Objective; step by step.
- Marketing 101: innovators and early adopters first.
- Local governments, 22,000+ Home Rule cities and counties, then states.
- Create YouTube videos.
- Ask your local city council to create a "Good Governance" Board, to implement the "Best Democracy Index", to examine political accountability.
- Identify the low hanging fruit. Which local governments need change most?
- Write Charter Amendment templates. Clear legal tests.
- Introduce change incrementally by conducting winning campaigns, 50%+1, in the low hanging fruit local governments, giving voters tangible Pro Rep examples to examine and emulate.

BEST DEMOCRACY

Best Democracy was started in Colorado on Facebook 09/2015. As of July/2021 we have 725 FB members from 35 US states, Washington D.C., 5 Canadian provinces, and in 25 countries.

Join Best Democracy on Facebook.

- Go to the <u>www.bestdemocracy.org</u> website to learn more about election issues and remedies.
- Write letters to your elected officials. Ask them what they're doing to make elections more fair and politicians more accountable. Ask them if they know about Proportional Representation. Inform them if they don't.
- · Host a "Town Hall" on election reform.
- Host a Best Democracy Potluck. Show the Zoom version of this presentation.
- Contact jesse@bestdemocracy.org; volunteer to work on charter campaigns, the web site, to organize events and make this presentation into a video.

Inclusive Democracy for the 99%

The Long Form version of this presentation is available on the site.

Would You Rather Be Included?	Slide <u>4</u>
King's Process, Observation, We Have a Problem	Slides <u>5</u> - 8
Slavery and US Elections	Slides <u>9</u> - 15
Oligarchy and the Cartel Parties	Slides 16 - 18
Predetermined Elections, Concentrated and Dispersed Power	Slides <u>19</u> - 22
Families of Electoral Systems, Majoritarian and Proportional	Slides <u>23</u> - 26
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Debates and Other Obstructions to Democracy	Slides <u>32</u> & 33
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Before and After HPR Sample Systems	Slides 55 - 81
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Credits	Slide <u>91</u>

BEST DEMOCRACY

Introducing Hybrid Proportional Representation v2 Credits 26 June 2021

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Writing, research, photography in the US & Europe, pie charts, tables and presentation design. - Jesse Kumin

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Some language and conceptual content provided by Robert Burns McDonald, Ontario, Canada; Celeste Landry, Boulder, Colorado; Will Plank, Knoxville, TN, and Gary Swing, Denver, CO. Research assistance by Richard Gopen on the EIU Democracy Index thresholds and wasted votes. Thank you Gary Swing for introducing me to Proportional Representation and sourcing some of the quotes included.

Plumbing help, feedback and moral support. - Steve Friedman.

Patience, feedback, excellent nourishment and understanding. - Margaret Look Kumin

Thank you everyone for all your help!

More info, candidate resources at www.bestdemocracy.org