# BEST DEMOCRACY

Inclusive Democracy for the 99%

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

Best Democracy
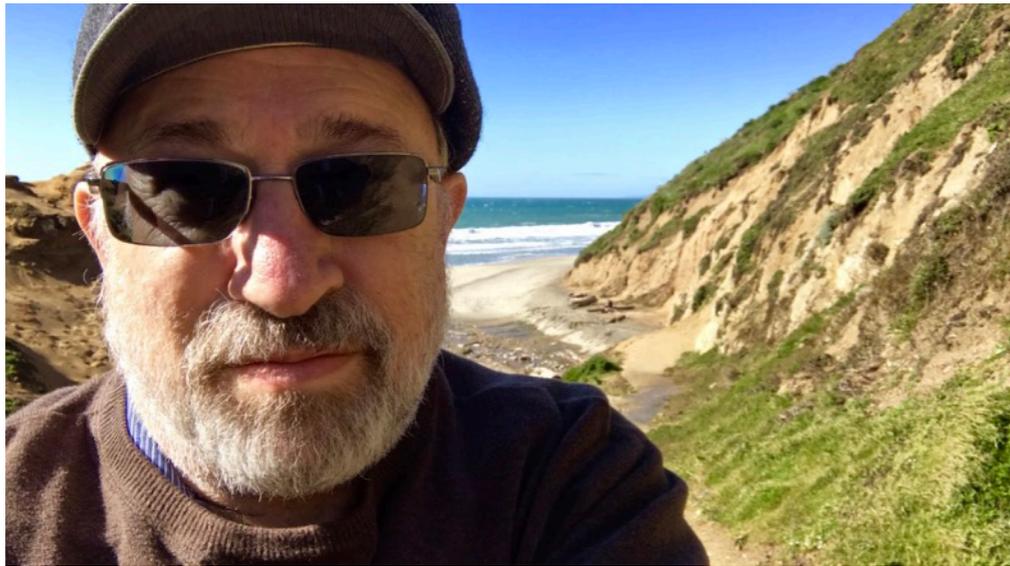
Jesse Kumin

Founder & Exec. Dir.

Best Democracy

Inclusive Democracy for the 99%

Directory

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.

Winner Take All systems exclude large blocks of voters from representation. Proportional systems inclusively represent everyone. Which would you prefer?

Answered: 65   Skipped: 0
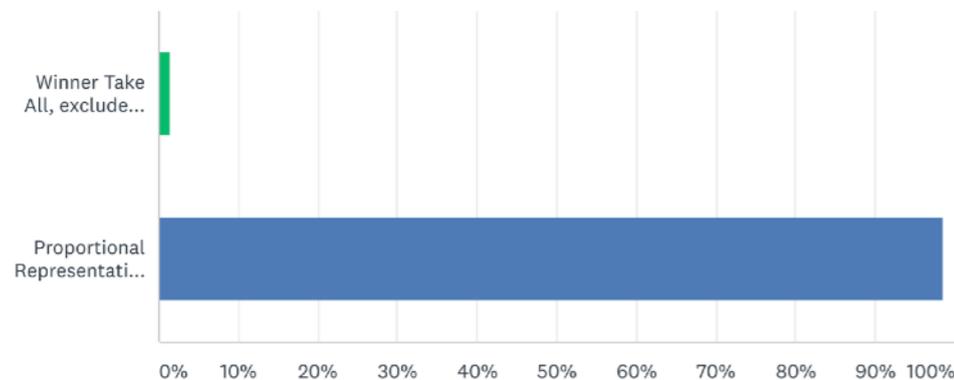
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
▼ Winner Take All, exclude large blocks of voters and all minorities		1.54%	1
▼ Proportional Representation, include and represent everyone fairly based on their percentage of the vote		98.46%	64
TOTAL			65

2/3rds of the US "Voting Eligible Population" voted in the 2020 Presidential election, high for the US. A completely biased sample of engaged voters, from this 2/3rds, who saw and completed the Best Democracy Election Survey, preferred Proportional Representation, to be included in decision making, over "Winner Take All", that excludes large blocks of voters. The outlier was a troll.

In an informal survey at a Libertarian Lunch, 14 of 14 attendees voted for Proportional Representation, after this presentation. Ideology isn't a determining factor. If you vote, you want your vote to count.

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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.

King's 5 Step Protocol

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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.

I'm a very inexperienced plumber. I misdiagnosed the source of the leak as the hose, which was wet. I spent two hours, 10 miles driving and $7.87 USD draining the toilet tank, buying a new hose, replacing the hose, only to discover I had made the leak worse.

I didn't stop at the apparent, first, dysfunctional solution. It was a poor diagnosis and a poor outcome. I asked my friend Steve for help.

Steve correctly identified a loose nut connecting the tank to the base causing a drip-drip-drip onto the hose below. Steve quickly tightened the nut for $0. I owe a payback favor to Steve for helping me out.

4395 Toilet Leak © 2019 Jesse Kumin

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Stepping into the puddle

Most US politicians won't acknowledge we have a problem. Precious few will admit US electoral systems are designed to exclude people and distort outcomes. Denial is not a solution. Some politicians are actively making issues worse.

2020 Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index

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)
		Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy								Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy	Not Measured, Added by Best Democracy
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	Finland	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	Netherlands	Open Party List	8.96	Full Democracy	9.58	9.29	8.33	8.75	8.82		0.67%
11	Taiwan	Mixed Member Proportional	8.94	Full Democracy	10.00	9.64	7.22	8.13	9.71		5%
12	Switzerland	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	Germany	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	Chile	Open Party List	8.28	Full Democracy	9.58	8.21	6.67	8.13	8.82		3.2%
18	Austria	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	Mauritius	Closed Party List	8.14	Full Democracy	9.17	7.86	6.11	8.75	8.82		1%
21	Japan	Open Party List	8.13	Full Democracy	8.75	8.57	6.67	8.13	8.53		2%
22	Spain	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	Italy	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									

The US is down from #21 to #25 in the **EIU** Democracy Index since 2016. The US became a "Flawed Democracy" in 2017. The EIU Rating of 9.17 on Pluralism is overly generous. Most of the United States has "One Party Dominant" rule, therefore does not have a democracy.

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Identifying the source of the problem

"Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

- Peter Townshend

"Around 1776, certain important people in the English colonies made a discovery that would prove enormously useful for the next two hundred years. (Now 244 years). They found that by creating a nation, a symbol, a legal unity called the United States, they could take over land, profits, and political power from favorites of the British Empire. In the process, they could hold back a number of potential rebellions, and create a consensus of popular support for the rule of a new, privileged leadership."

"When we look at the American Revolution this way, it was a work of genius, and the Founding Fathers deserve the awed tribute they have over the centuries. They created the most effective system of national control devised in modern times, and showed future generations of leaders the advantages of combining paternalism with command."

- A People's History of the United States - Howard Zinn.

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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.

Slavers, terrified at the looming loss of their "property", used freedom and liberty from England as cover to retain slavery. The Slavers Revolt was all about money and "property".

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

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

The Coup was complete. Slavers accomplished their objective, protected their "property" for 93 years after slavery was abolished in England and Wales by "*Somerset vs. Stewart*" (1772). The Founding Oligarchs took care of their own needs first.

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.

Human Rights like Freedom of Speech weren't addressed until the second draft of the Constitution, the "Bill of Rights". Human Rights took a back seat to Slavers' Property Rights.

http://www.bestdemocracy.org/slavery-and-us-elections.html
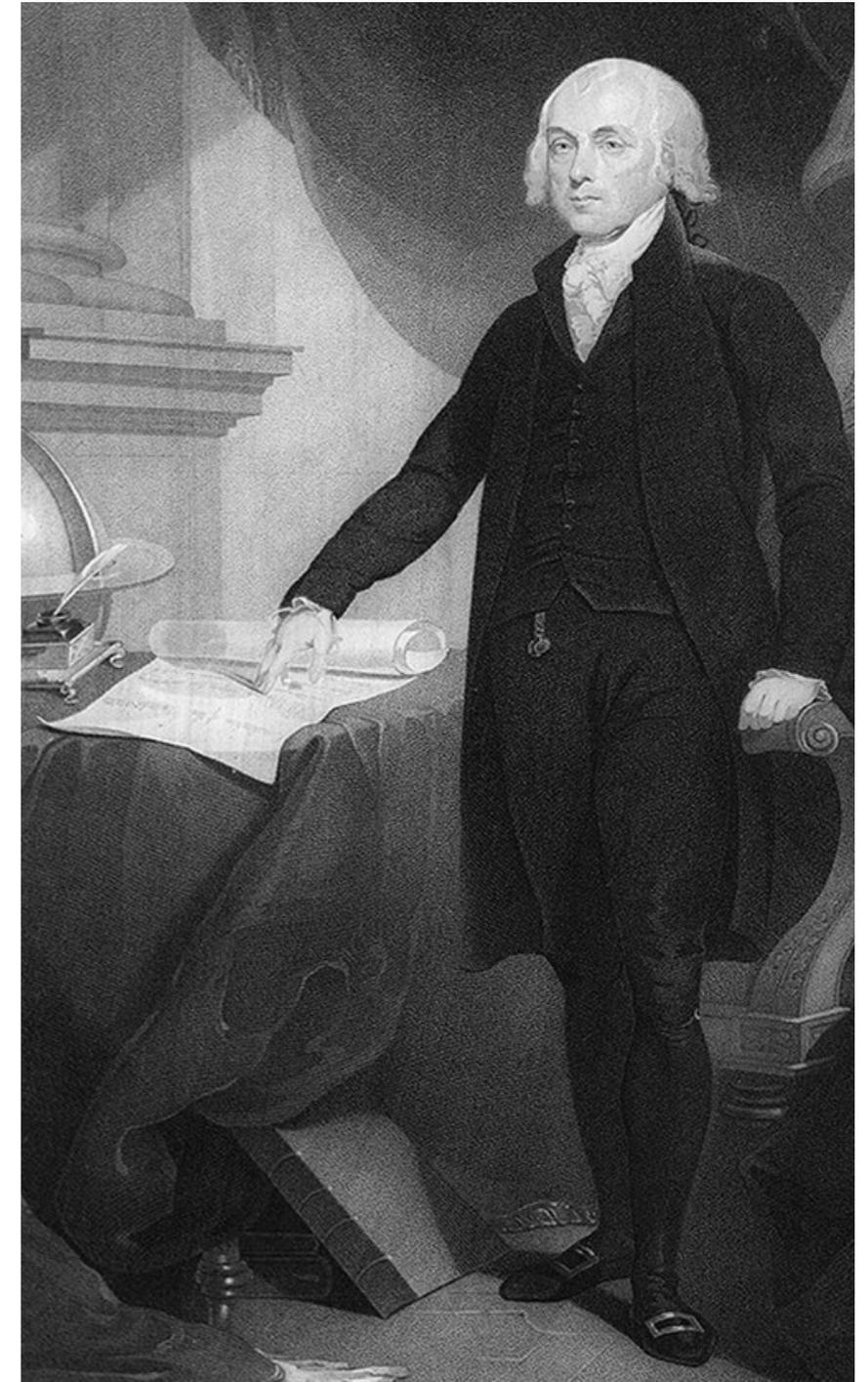
The Founders had competing views on Representation

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."

Adams was describing Proportional Representation before it had a name.

"Thoughts on Government"

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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

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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
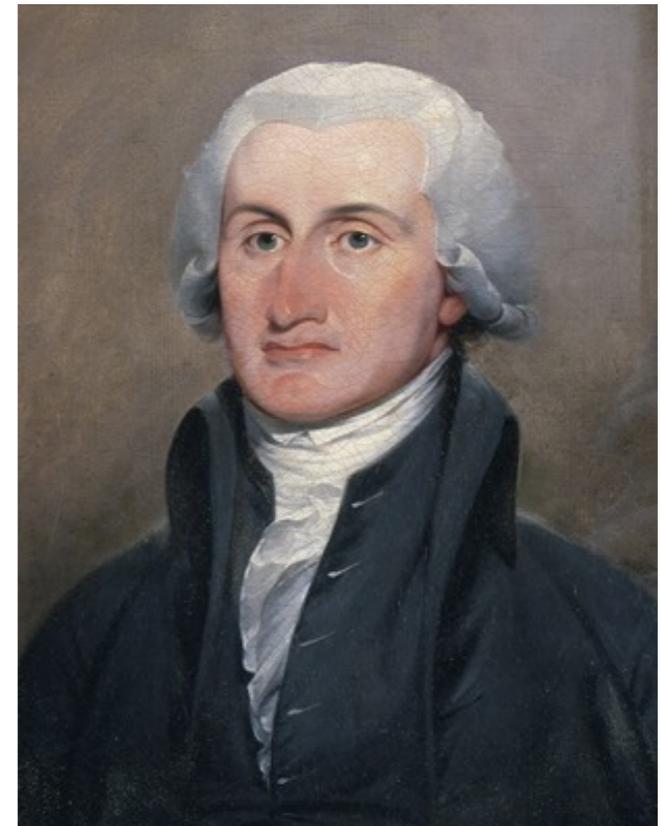
"The people who own the country ought to govern it."
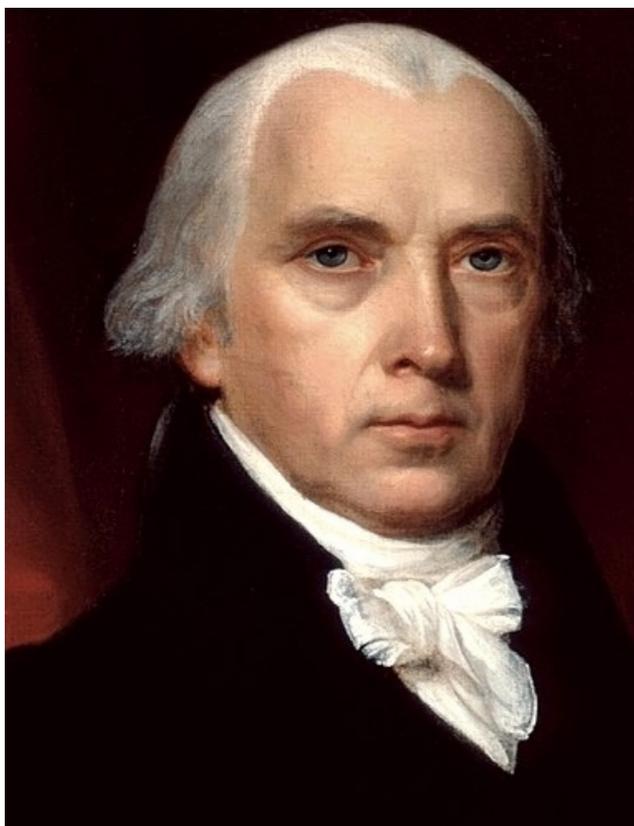
Who was in the driver's seat?

James Madison

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

"In England, at this day, if elections were open to all classes of people, the property of landed proprietors would be insecure. An agrarian law would soon take place. … our government ought to secure the permanent interests of the country against innovation (Article V in the Constitution). 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.**"

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Founding Fathers

55 white male delegates to the Constitutional Convention, all property owners over the age of 25, got the last word on US government and election system design, which they accomplished in three months. 17 left before the vote passing the Constitution.

They were *not* an exact portrait of the people at large. Slavers made up 2% - 3% of the US population, but had the voting majority of the delegates. All told, they represented a slim minority, 6% of the US population. They decided to exclude everyone else, anyone who might have objected to their scheme. They established an oligarchy in 1787.

http://www.bestdemocracy.org/slavery-and-us-elections.html
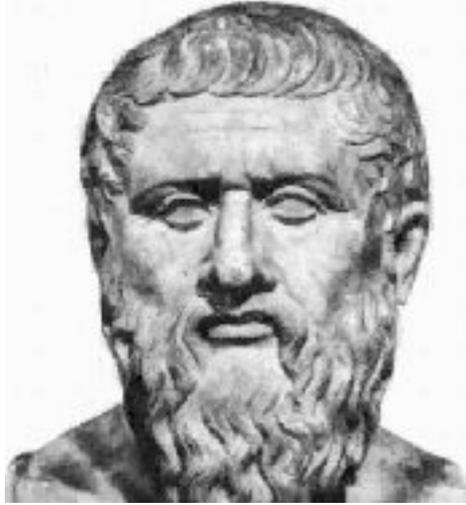
"The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." - Plato

The problem started when only 6% of the country, a privileged elite, controlled the Constitutional Convention. 2% to 3% of the country owned slaves. Slavers controlled the US government for all but 8 of the first 84 years from 1776 - 1860, the formative years of the country, and created all the issues we are confronting today.

The Oligarchy was institutionalized as a continuance of a British inspired, top down, propertied class controlling government, with concentrated power, distorted representation, unaccountable elected officials and an unaccountable judiciary.

What if John Adams had prevailed?

We need to acknowledge past mistakes and move on, not drag the baggage of the past behind us. Our values are not the slavers values. Our government should reflect this.

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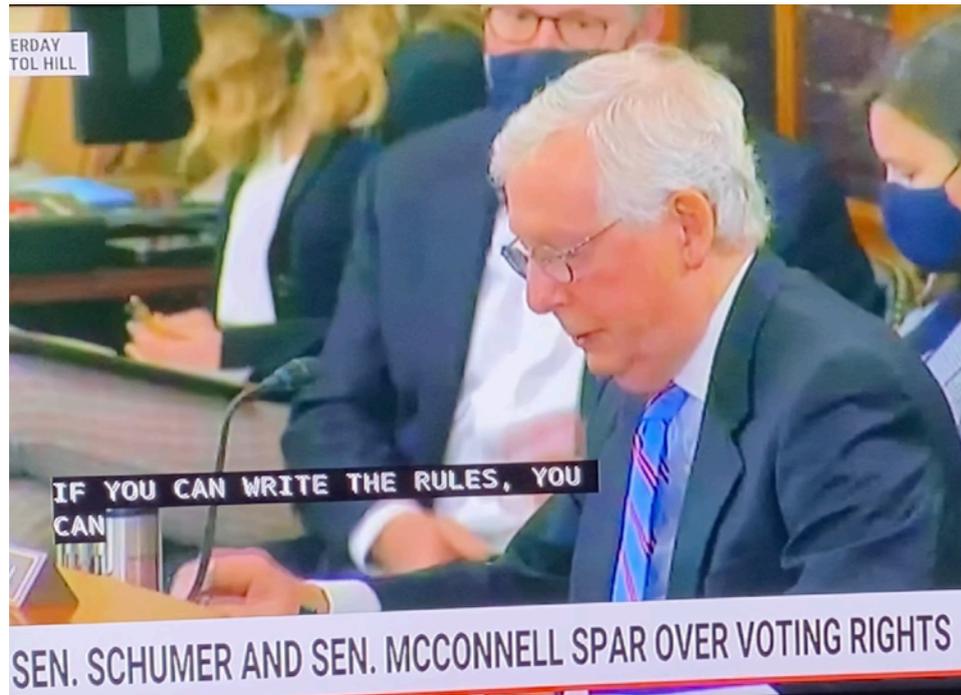
On 11 May 2021, Mitch McConnell said the quiet part out loud on the US Senate floor.

"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.

Most of us were never taught to cheat early in life by writing rules in our favor. We were taught to obey the rules and not question them. I didn't learn that rules could be revised for a desired outcome, until much later in life than Mitch McConnell.

Slavers, the forebears of today's oligarchs, wrote rules favoring Predatory Capitalists in 1787. They concentrated power that in 2021, put Mitch McConnell in a position of controlling the flow of legislation coming out of Congress. Isn't it time we changed the rules and wrote Mitch out of a stranglehold concentration of power obstructing democracy in the US?

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

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 get taxed and who doesn't.

- The Cartel has controlled every federal and state government for 161 years.

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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.

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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.

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Concentrated Power
Subject to Repression, Abuse & Corruption

Throughout history, the governments with the worst human rights records, fewest civil liberties, most corrupt, hated, murderous tyrannical leaders, have all had concentrated, unaccountable power, characterized as "Authoritarian" regimes. Recent examples from the 20th Century are Hitler, Mao and Stalin.

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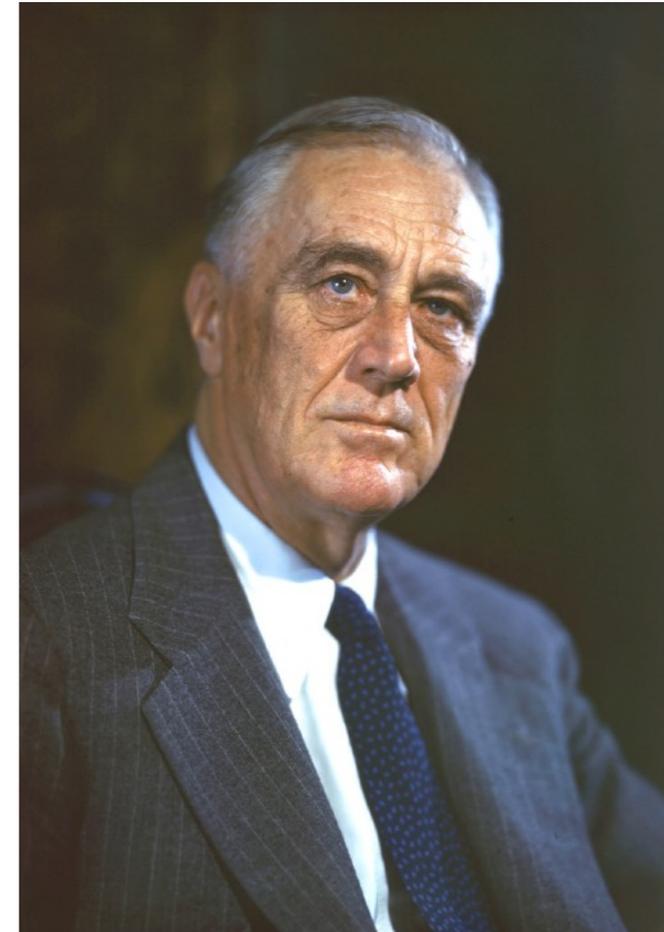
Concentration of Power enables abuse of power, corruption and minority rule.

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Families of Electoral Systems
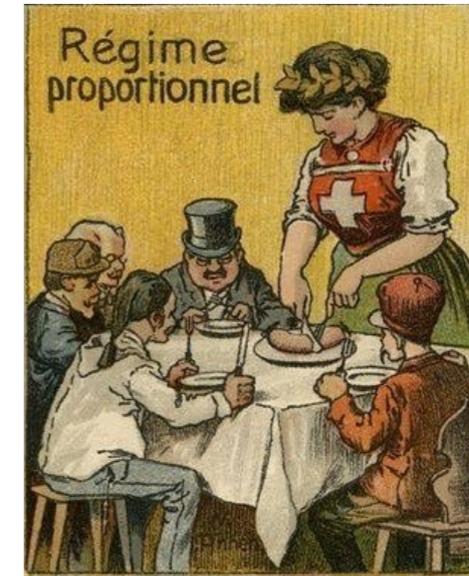
Majoritarian - Winner Take All

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.

Proportional

Multi Member Districts

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".

Why not Ranked Choice Voting in Single Member Districts?

- IRV/RCV is a Majoritarian system with nearly all the issues of Majoritarian systems.

- There is no history of Instant Runoff Voting aka "Ranked Choice Voting" (IRV/RCV) becoming a steppingstone to any fully proportional system. This is a myth (a lie).

- IRV/RCV prolongs the delusion that Single Member Districts Majoritarian systems are the best solution to representing everyone.

- IRV/RCV solves only one issue: the Spoiler Effect.

- IRV/RCV doesn't solve all the issues solved by all Pro Rep systems.

- Any Single Member District system like IRV leads to a restrictive two party system.

- Nearly half the votes in IRV/RCV systems can be "wasted" votes.

- Any Single Member District offers opportunities to Gerrymander map drawing.

- IRV/RCV maintains concentration of power, shutting out minority viewpoints.

- Discourages minority (race, ethnic, religion, party, social class) participation.

- Maintains many of the barriers to entry for candidates, limiting voter choice.

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Low voter turnout

Large blocks of the American electorate are disengaged.

2/3rds of the "Voting Eligible Population" voted in the 2020 US Presidential election, 1/3rd did not. Most local and state elections have even lower turnout, often ranging from 35% to 50%. Compare this to 87.3% voter turnout in the 2018 Swedish General Election, which includes regional and local elections. Sweden has a 31% higher voter participation rate than the US.

When most elections are predetermined, when voters have little choice, when people have candidates they like, but their votes rarely count toward outcomes (wasted votes), they have much less motivation to participate.

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.

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Institutionalized Distortion of Power favoring land over people

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 2020 Presidential Vote

Minor Parties
3.5%

Democrats
26.6%
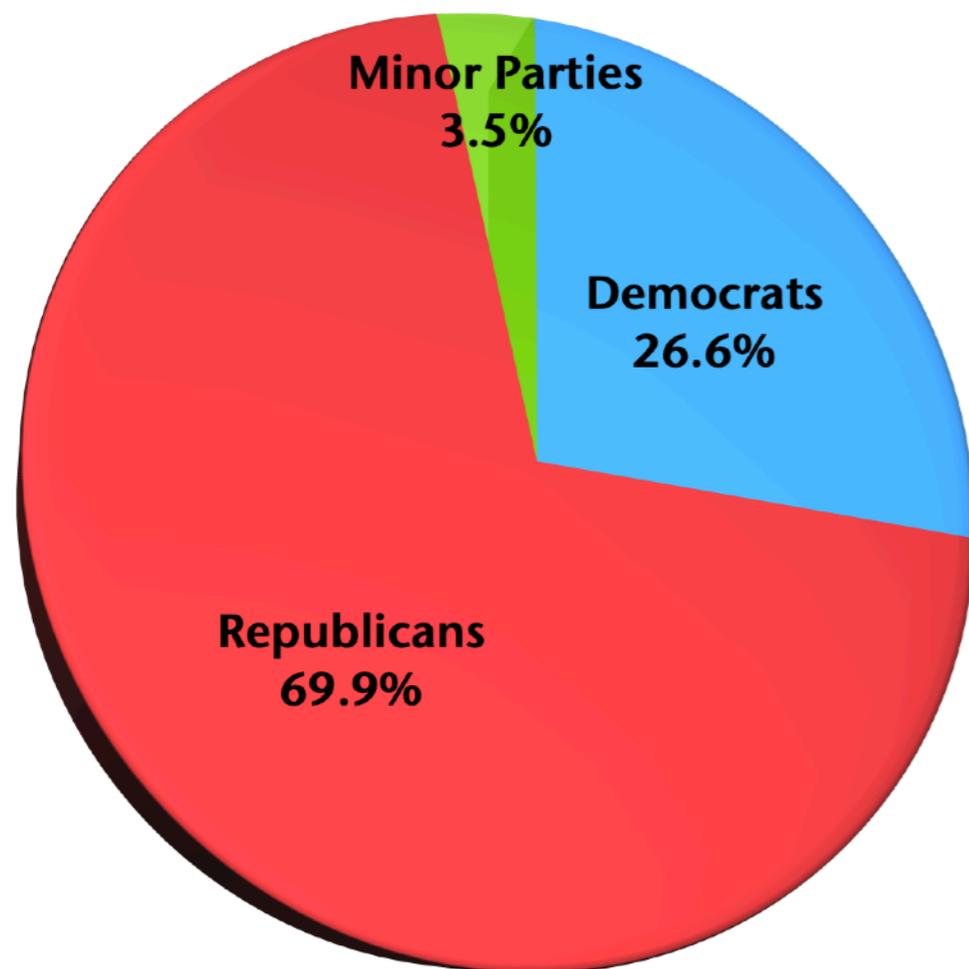
Republicans
69.9%

Wyoming Legislature 2020 Seats

Minor Parties
2.2%

Democrats
10.0%

Republicans
87.8%

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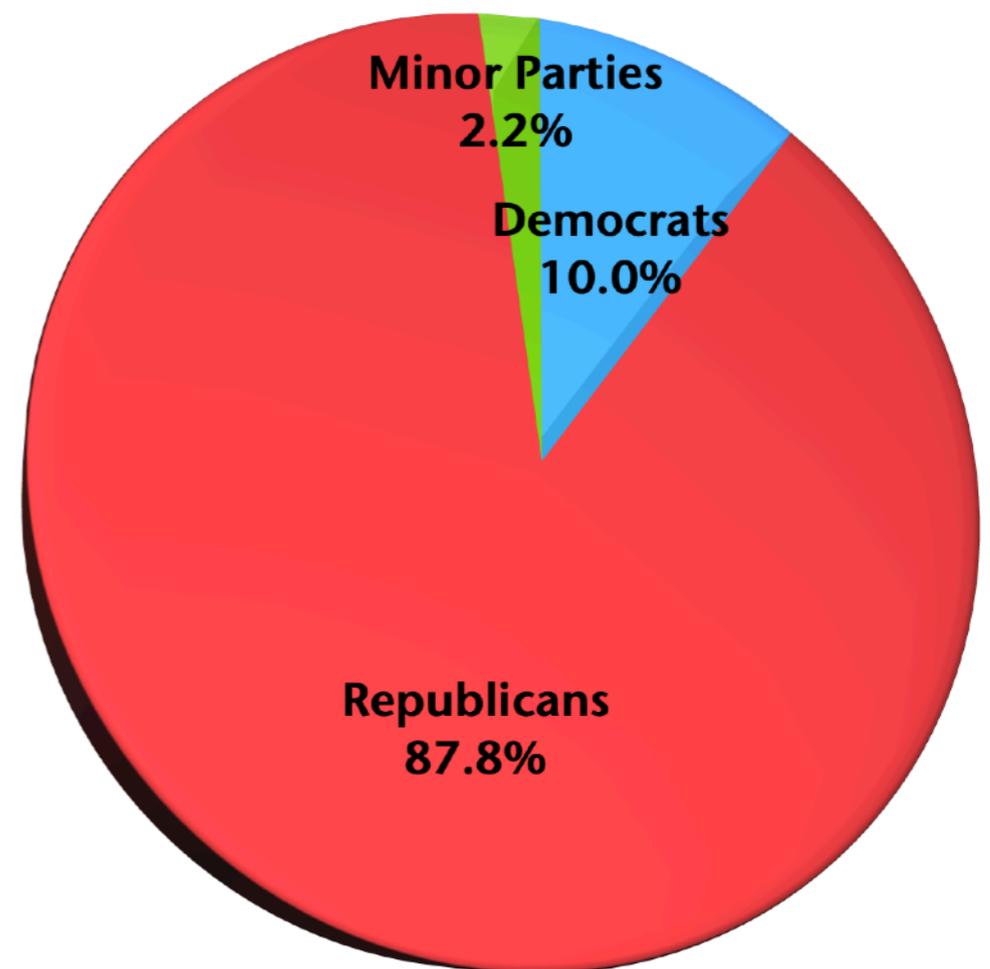
Systemic Distortion in Representation

In Wisconsin, distortions favor Republicans.

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

Wisconsin 2020 Presidential Vote

Minor Parties
1.7%

Republicans
48.8%

Democrats
49.5%
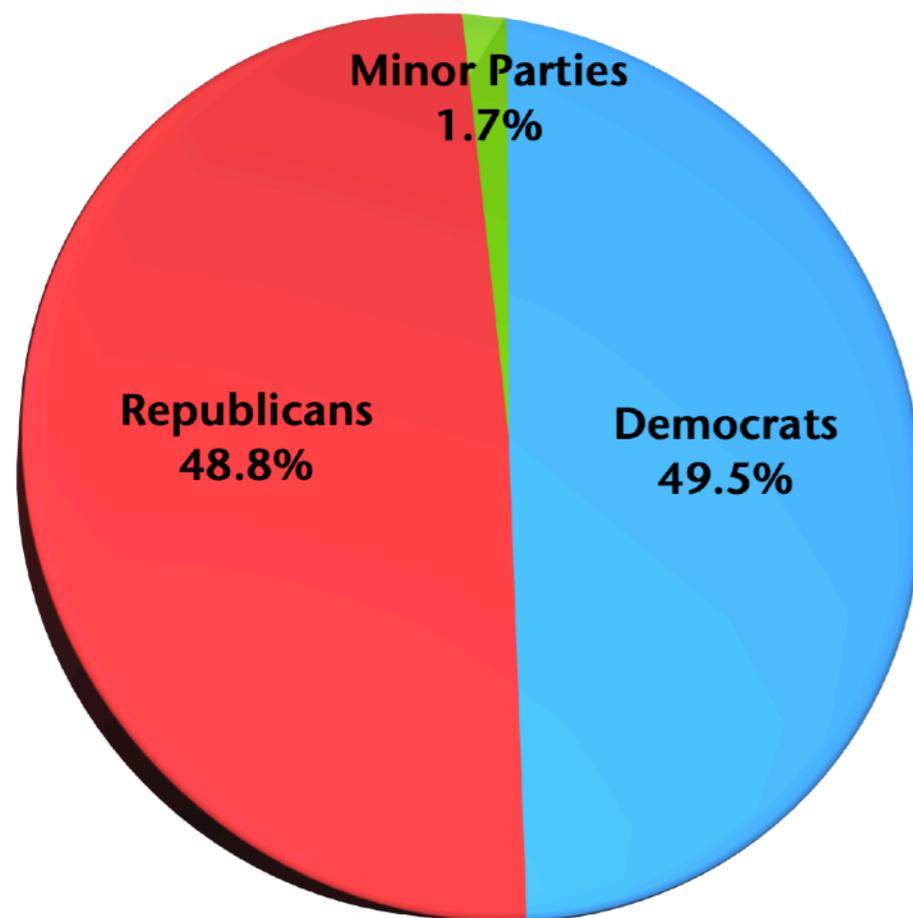
Wisconsin Legislature 2020 Seats

Democrats
38.5%

Republicans
61.5%
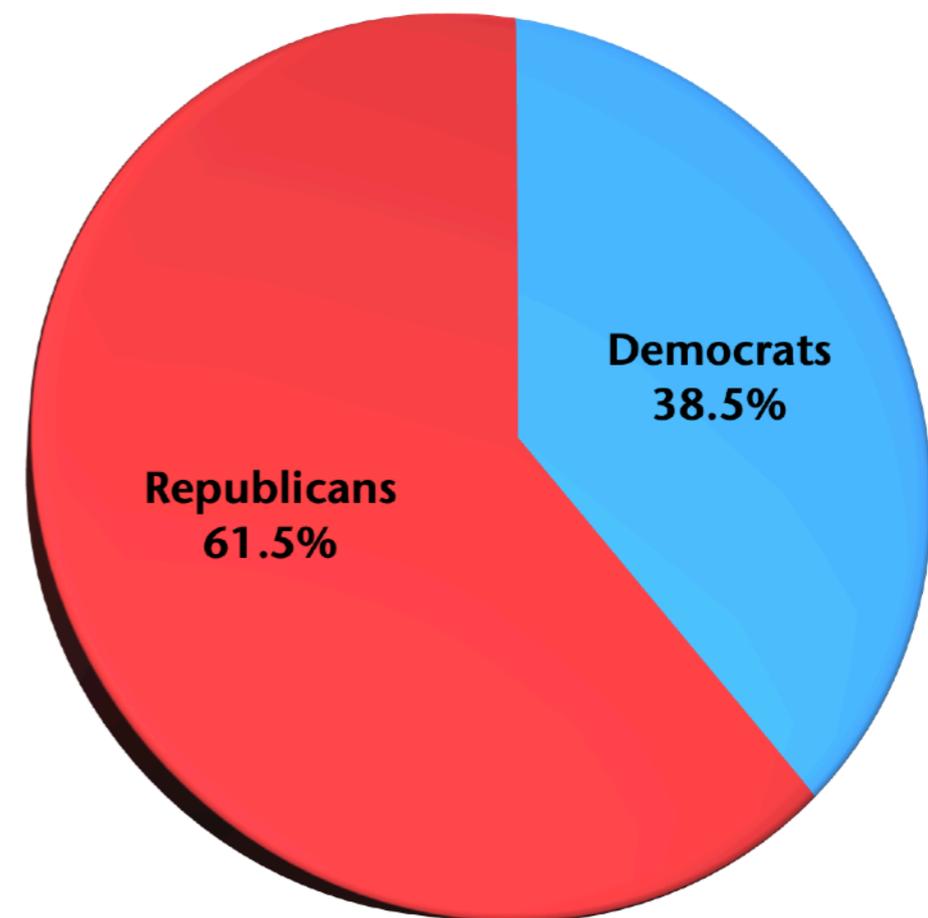
Few Debates Impair our Decision Making

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?

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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?

Proportional Representation

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

www.bestdemocracy.org

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.

www.bestdemocracy.org

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!

www.bestdemocracy.org

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.

www.bestdemocracy.org

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.

Mixed Member Proportional

Used in fewer countries than Party List systems, but gaining in popularity.

Bolivia: since 1994 (3% threshold, except when overthrown by US backed coup).

Ethiopia: Due to COVID-19, planned 2020 rollout has been delayed except the state of Tigray.

Germany: Bundestag and most state parliaments (5% threshold).

New Zealand: Parliament since 1996 (5% threshold). Now the #4 EIU Democracy in the world. 56% voted for retention of MMP in 2011.

South Africa: All local elections.

**South Korea:** Adopted in 2019.

Thailand: Adopted in 2019.

United Kingdom:

    London: London Assembly.

    Scotland: National Assembly.

    Wales: National Assembly.

Single Transferable Vote
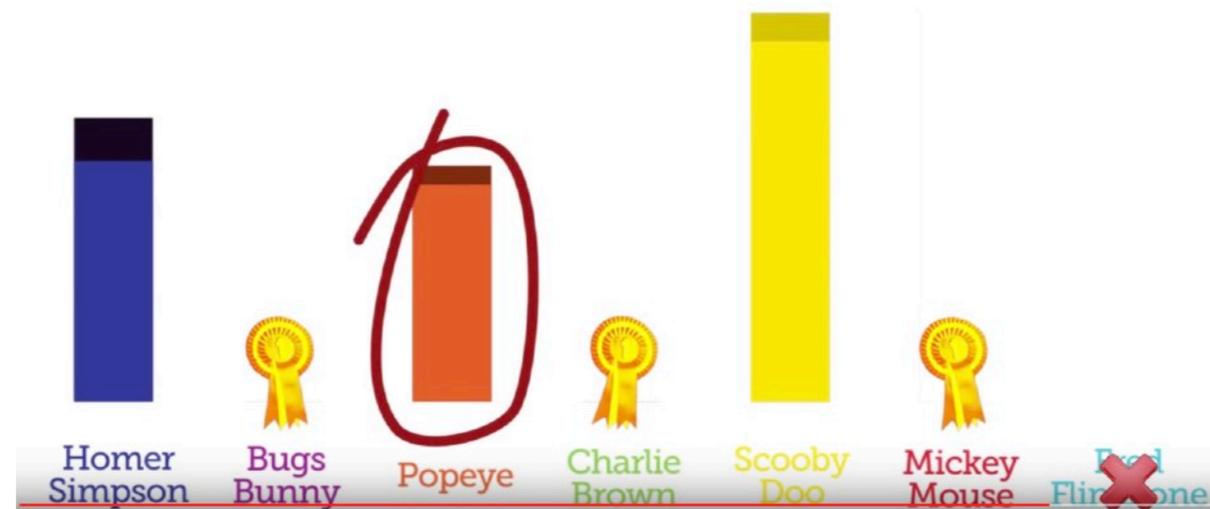
Watch the short STV video that describes the counting process.

- Ranking and vote counting system developed by British lawyer Thomas Hare in 1857.

- The earliest form of Pro Rep adopted. First used in the Tasmanian House of Assembly in 1896 (called Hare-Clark).

- Renamed by H.G. Wells as "Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote".

- STV can be implemented where state law precludes candidate party affiliation.

- Candidate Centric, no parties, each candidate represents a unique constituency.

- IRV ranking and counting can be applied to Party List systems to enable participation of minor parties not able to clear a set minimum threshold.

- Downside: party votes add accuracy to representation. Many people like voting for parties.

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

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 (Dillon's Rule) 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 issues 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

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Australia: Tasmania since 1896: Adopted since in the Senate, state legislatures and local elections; called "Hare-Clark" system.

Ireland since 1921: Parliament, EU and local elections.

Malta since 1921: Parliament, EU and local elections.

New Zealand: Most local governments.

UK: Northern Ireland: Parliament, EU and local elections.

Scotland: Parliament, EU and local elections.

United States:

Cambridge, Massachusetts: City Council since 1941.

Minneapolis, MN: Municipal Board At Large seats, Park Board.

Student Government @ 50+ US universities, Caltech, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Texas.

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.

2016 Victoria Sample Ballot

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

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.

Limited use of Proportional Representation in the U.S.

The National Municipal League, an urban reform proponent in the early 20th Century, included STV Pro Rep in its model city charter in 1914.

Ashtabula, OH was the first US city to adopt STV in 1915. This sparked a boom. Pro Rep was adopted by 22 US cities including Boulder, CO from 1917 to 1947, but it worked too well.

In 1947 the Red Scare caused New York City and Boulder to repeal STV, due to the fear communists and minorities would get representation. Repeal followed elsewhere. Cincinnati, OH, repealed Pro Rep in 1957.

Cambridge, MA has used Single Transferable Vote since 1941.

Fine Grain Proportional Representation

Helsingborg Kommunfullmäktige © 2017 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved

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 in proportional systems 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.

http://www.bestdemocracy.org/proportional-representation.html

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.

www.bestdemocracy.org

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?

Wikipedia Commons Photo

United States' FPTP electoral system is exclusive, Germany's Mixed Member Proportional system is inclusive.

Wikipedia Commons Photo

United States		Germany
331,449,281	Population	83,190,556
Congress	Legislative Body	Bundestat
House 435, Sen: 50	Districts	16, each with subdivisions
1 each in 435, Sen: 2 x 50	Members per District	1 each in 598 districts (FPTP)
0	Leveling Seats	111
535	Total Representatives	709
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Mixed Member Proportional
50%	Threshold	5%
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Negligible Impact
2	Parties Represented	7
66.2%	Voter Turnout	84.1%
#25 (Flawed Democracy)	EIU Democracy Index	#13 (Full Democracy)

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United States Hybrid Proportional Representation

Inclusive Government for 331 million people

Image from Wikimedia Commons

- **Unicameral House of Representatives. Abolish the Senate.**
- Conjoin three Congressional House Districts' boundary lines = 145 districts.
- **7 members per district X 145 districts = 1,015** directly elected district members. Include territories, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.
- Districts will extend over state lines. Adjust district boundary lines along county lines for equity in matching population counts per district.
- Single Transferable Vote (STV) Droop counting in districts, candidate centric.
- MMP + 20% Leveling Seats (202) Webster/Sainte-Laguë count. **1,217 seats** total.
- 3% party threshold. Retain voter intent for small parties and fringe candidates through ranking. IRV counting for under 3% minor parties. Almost no wasted votes.
- Elections every two years, even years as is currently.
- President elected by the People's House. In most Pro rep systems, a coalition pick.
- **2 Ranked votes per elector:** (1) for candidates, (1) for parties.
- **4 ways to vote**, voters decide how to use their two Ranked votes:
  - **Closed Party List:** (use only 1 vote) Vote a straight party list.
  - **Open Party List:** (1 vote for a party) + Reorder the party candidate list (1 vote).
  - **STV:** (use only 1 vote) 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.
- Breaks up the Cartel Party system, disperses power.
- Much greater diversity of representation nationally, 8 - 9 parties elected. 7X greater diversity in every district.
- The President becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time. Can be removed by a Vote of No Confidence.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 3% wasted votes. 97% - 99% of the electorate is represented accurately. 1% to 3% wasted votes v. 2016 Presidential election 53.9% wasted votes.
- Mitigates societal polarization; moves the electorate away from the bipolar us vs. them system toward collaborative coalitions.
- MMP nationally and STV in districts makes gerrymandering and spoilers impossible.
- Mitigates targeted campaign finance dollars in swing districts.
- Much easier candidate ballot access. Candidates can choose and switch parties much more easily.
- Reduces concentrated power and the potential for corruption,
- 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 primaries for taxpayers.
- Prototypes Pro Rep for state and local government adoption.
- Would move the United States from a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in the EIU Democracy Index.

V2.3, 19 June 2021

www.bestdemocracy.org

MMP = Mixed Member Proportional, STV = Single Transferable Vote

What better models exist?

Golden Gate Bridge © 1995 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved

California's FPTP electoral system is exclusive, Sweden's (open) Party List proportional system is inclusive.

Riksdag © 2017 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved

California		Sweden
39,512,223	Population	10,333,456
Assembly & Senate	Legislative Body	Riksdag
Assembly 80, Sen: 40	Districts	29
1 each in 120 districts	Members per District	(10.7 ave.) 310 total
0	Leveling Seats	39
120	Total Representatives	349
First Past the Post	Electoral System	(Open) Party List proportional
50%	Threshold	4%
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Not Possible
2	Parties Represented	8
75.3%	Voter Turnout	87.3%
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index	#3

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California Hybrid Proportional Representation
Inclusive Government for 40 million People

Muir Woods Redwoods © 2018 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved.

- Unicameral State Legislature. Eliminate the Senate.
- Use the current 40 Senate Districts' boundary lines. 40 districts x 7 members per District = **280 District seats**.
- 3% party threshold; +20% Leveling Seats (55) = **335 seats total**.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% threshold.
- 2 *ranked* votes per elector, (1) for parties, (1) for candidates in each office. 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.

MMP: Mixed Member Proportional; STV: Single Transferable Vote

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 38.1% 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 Pro Rep for the rest of the United States.
- Would move California from a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

What's not to like?

Jesse Kumin

V 2.1, 24 March 2021

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

Texas Hybrid Proportional Representation
Inclusive Government for 30 million people

Jesse Kumin

V 2.1, 23 April 2021

Texas Lone Star, Falkenpost, Pixabay

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 44.2% 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 Texas from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

- Unicameral Texas State Legislature. Eliminate the Senate.
- Use the current 31 Senate Districts' boundary lines. 31 districts x 7 members each = 217 district seats.
- MMP: 20% Leveling Seats (44). 261 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.

MMP = Mixed Member Proportional, STV = Single Transferable Vote

What's not to like?

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

Canada MMP/STV
Inclusive Government for 38 million people

Centre Block and Centennial Flame, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, © 2014 Tony Webster

- Unicameral Parliament, abolish the Senate.

- Leave the 4 northernmost ridings as is, too large already.

- Consolidate the other 334 ridings into 40 ridings averaging 7 members each = 280 + 4 = 284 total district seats.

- MMP: +20% Leveling Seats (57) = 341 seats total.

- 2 *ranked* votes per elector, (1) vote for candidates and (1) for parties. 4 ways to vote: Vote a straight party list (1 vote) or reorder a party list (2 votes, open Party List). Use only one vote for STV in ridings, or use two votes mixing candidates & parties (MMP) for different offices.

- 3% party threshold. Retain small party votes and fringe candidate votes through ranking.

- STV (Droop) counting in districts, candidate centric. MMP nationally levels seats to match party's percentage of votes.

Benefits

- More seats per riding yields more granularity and diversity of representation in every district.

- Fixes wrong majority and minority governments, disperses power.

- Much greater diversity of representation across Canada, 8 - 9 parties receiving seats.

- PM elected by Parliament, becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years.

- Input matches outcomes accurately, fewer than 3% wasted votes. 97% - 99% of the electorate represented accurately.

- MMP nationally and STV in districts makes gerrymandering and spoilers impossible.

- Much easier candidate ballot access. Candidates can choose and switch parties more easily.

- Much greater voter choice. Ranking retains voter intent. Maximum flexibility for voters. Enables candidate and party accountability.

MMP/STV = Mixed Member Proportional/Single Transferable Vote

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What better models exist?

Massachusetts FPTP electoral system is exclusive. Finland's Party List system is inclusive.

Massachusetts		Finland
6,939,373	Population	5,528,390
General Court	Legislative Body	Suomen Eduskunta
2	Chambers	1
40 Senate + 160 House	Districts	13
1	Members per District	15.4 ave.
0	Leveling Seats	0
200	Elected Representatives	200
First Past the Post	Electoral System	(Open) Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	0.5%
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Not Possible
3 to 5	Steps to Election (w. caucuses, primaries)	1
2	Parties Represented	8
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index	#5

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Massachusetts Hybrid Pro Rep
Inclusive Government for 7 million People

Jesse Kumin

V 2.0, 8 April 2021

Massachusetts State House - courtesy Wikipedia Commons

- Unicameral Legislature.
- Conjoin every 6 House Districts. Adjust to 25 districts.
- 25 districts, ave. 7 members each = 175.
- 3% party threshold. Add 20% Leveling Seats (36). **211 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.

MMP = Mixed Member Proportional, STV = Single Transferable Vote

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 33.1% 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 Massachusetts from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

What's not to like?

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

www.bestdemocracy.org

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.

MMP/STV = Mixed Member Proportional/Single Transferable Vote

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.

What's not to like?

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

Systemic Distortion in Representation

In Hawaii, distortions exclude Republicans

With 63.7% of the vote, Democrats received 93.4% of the seats and 100% of the power.

Hawaii 2020 Presidential Vote

Minor Parties
2.0%

Republicans
34.3%

Democrats
63.7%
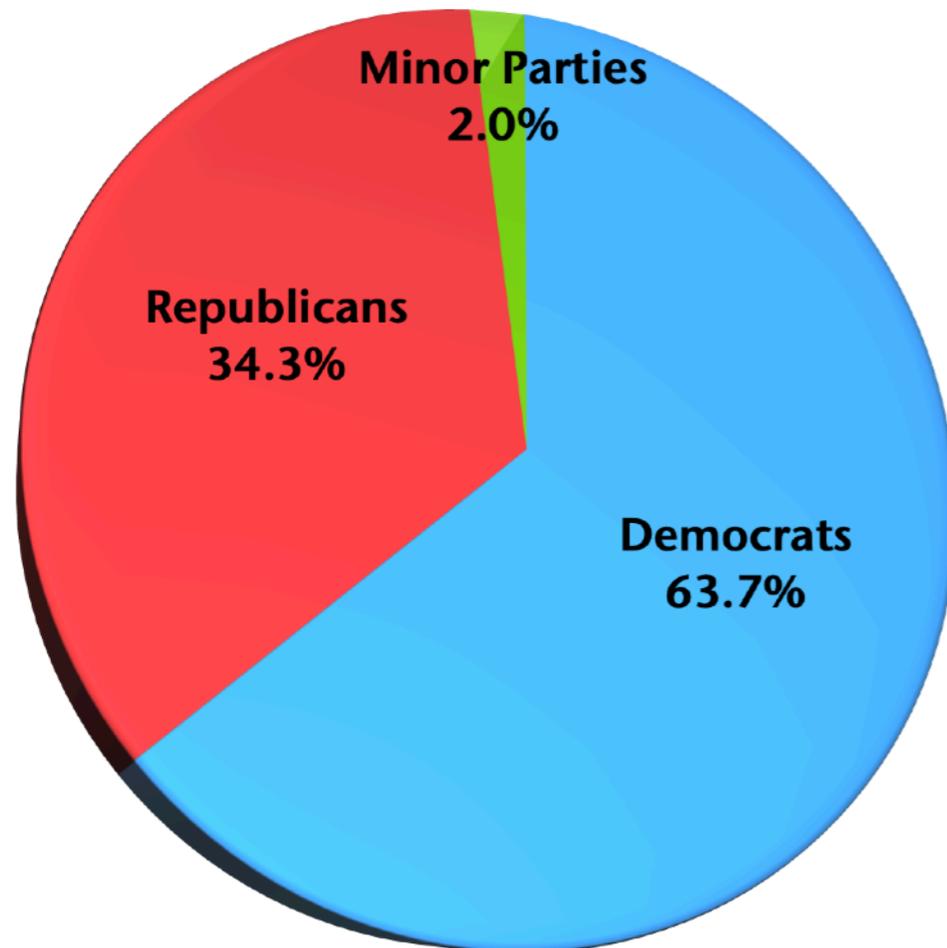
Hawaii Legislature 2020 Seats

Republicans
6.6%

Democrats
93.4%
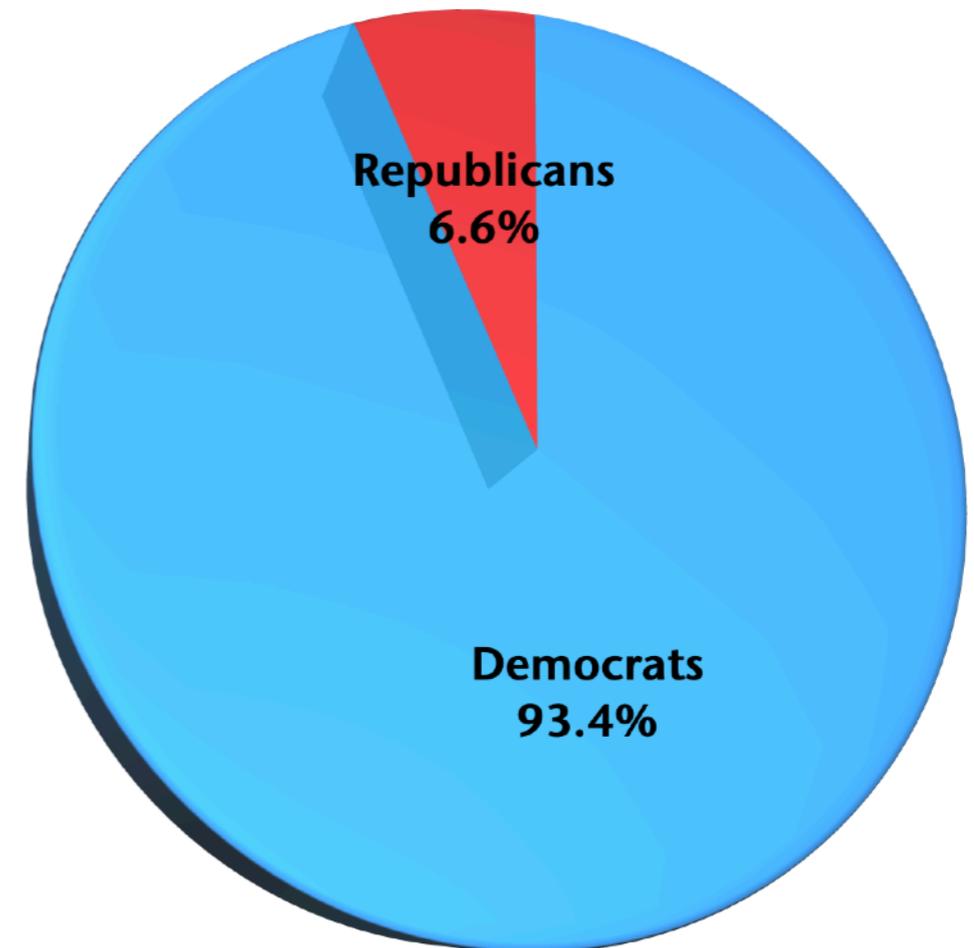
Hawaii Hybrid Proportional Representation
Inclusive Government for 1.5 million People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.0, 2 May 2021

Kauai Taro Fields © 1989 Jesse Kumin, All Rights Reserved.

- (1) member per 25K pop., 6 member district = 150,000.
- (1) 7 member Hawai'i, (1) 6 member Maui, (1) 3 member Kauai +, (2) 7 member districts Oahu. (4) 6 member Oahu, 54 district seats total.
- STV (Droop) counting in districts, 12.5% - 25% threshold. Unicameral Legislature. 9 House Districts. ave. 6 members each = 54.
- 3% party threshold. Add 35% Leveling Seats (19). **73 seats total**.
- **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.

MMP/STV = Mixed Member Proportional/Single Transferable Vote

Benefits

- Increases the diversity of representation in every district.
- Reduces the potential for corruption, breaks up the Cartel "One Party Dominant" government, disperses power.
- Much greater diversity of representation statewide, 5 - 8 parties elected. 3 - 7X greater diversity in all districts.
- 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 33.7% 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 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 Hawaii from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

What's not to like?

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

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

Denver County Building © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Central Reykjavik © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Denver, Colorado   Iceland

Denver		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

www.bestdemocracy.org

Denver County Building © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Both Denver, CO and Wyoming have One Party Dominant Government using FPTP

Wyoming State Capitol, Bradylyons Wikipedia Commons

Denver, Colorado

Wyoming

Denver, Colorado		Wyoming
727,211	Population	578,759
City Council	Legislative Body	State Legislature
11	Districts	60 House, 30 Senate
1	Chambers	2
1	Members per District	1
2	At Large/Leveling Seats	0
13	Elected Representatives	90
First Past the Post	Electoral System	First Past the Post
1	Parties Represented	2
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Yes/Possible
Yes	One Party Dominant Government	Yes

www.bestdemocracy.org

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

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)

www.bestdemocracy.org

Denver Hybrid Proportional Representation
Inclusive Government for 727,211 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.2 24 April 2021

Denver County Building

- 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?

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

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

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

www.bestdemocracy.org

Aurora Single Transferable Vote
Inclusive Government for 379,289 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.1 17 May 2021

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/

- **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

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

What better models exist?

Montgomery County Court House
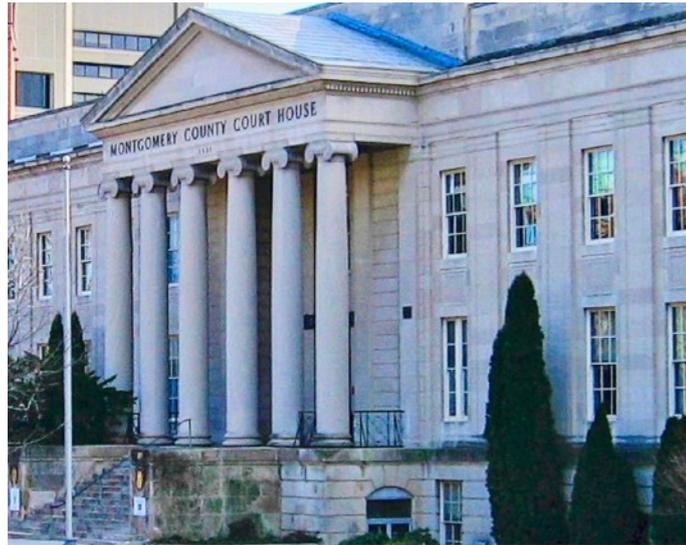
Montgomery County MD's FPTP electoral system is exclusive. Stockholm's Party List system is inclusive.

Riksdag, National Parliament

Montgomery County   ## Stockholm

Montgomery County		Stockholm
1,052,567	Population	972,647
County Council	Legislative Body	Kommunfullmäktige
1	Chambers	1
5 Districts + 4 At Large	Districts	14
1	Members per District	7.2 average
9	Elected Representatives	101
First Past the Post	Electoral System	(Open) Party List Proportional
50%	Threshold	3.3%
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Not Possible
1*	Parties Represented	9
54.8%	Voter Turnout	87.3%
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index	#3 (Sweden)

* 1 Party Rule since 2006, no Pluralism

www.bestdemocracy.org

Montgomery County MMP/STV
Formula for districts 1 million population

- **Unicameral County Council.**
- **2 votes per elector, candidate and party. Mix candidates & parties.**
- **Ranked ballots for both candidates and party.**
- **3% party threshold. Retain <3% party and less popular candidate votes through ranking.**
- Use current 5 district boundary lines.
- 5 districts x 7 members each = 35 district seats.
- 23% Leveling Seats (8). **43 seats total**. Seats match votes.
- STV counting in districts, candidate centric.
- Much greater diversity of representation in every district.
- Much greater diversity of representation countywide, 7 - 8 parties elected.
- County President elected by Council, accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 4 years.
- Input matches outcomes accurately, fewer than 3% wasted votes.
- MMP makes gerrymandering and spoilers impossible.
- Much easier candidate ballot access.
- Much greater voter choice, candidate and party accountability.
- Eliminates the financial and time costs of primaries. Removes exclusions of Primaries.
- Would make Montgomery County, MD the #1 democracy in the United States.
- Prototype Pro Rep for the rest of the United States.

www.bestdemocracy.org

Broomfield, CO's FPTP Ward system is exclusive. Helsingør's Open Party List system is inclusive.

Broomfield Community Center © 2021 Jesse Kumin

Kronborg Castle © 2017 Jesse Kumin

Broomfield, Colorado

Helsingør, Denmark

Broomfield, Colorado		Helsingør, Denmark
70,465	Population	62,686
City Council	Legislative Body	Kommunalbestyrelse
5	Districts	1
1	Chambers	1
2	Members per District	25
0	At Large/Leveling Seats	0
10 + Mayor	Elected Representatives	25
First Past the Post	Electoral System	Open Party List Pro Rep
50%	Threshold	3.5%
2	Parties Represented	8
Yes/Possible	Spoiler Effect & Gerrymander	Impossible
50.5%	Engagement - Voter Participation	72%
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index Rank	#7 (Denmark)

www.bestdemocracy.org

Broomfield Hybrid Pro Rep
Inclusive Government for 70,465 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.1   2 June 2021

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- Unicameral City and County Legislature.
- 3 County Commissioner Districts, 7 members each = 21 District Seats.
- 4% party threshold. Add 20% Leveling Seats (4) using the Webster/Sainte-Laguë method. **25 seats total**.
- County Commissioner Chair elected by the winning coalition.
- STV using 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.

MMP = Mixed Member Proportional, STV = Single Transferable Vote

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 Broomfield
- Much greater diversity of representation citywide, 4 to 6 parties elected. Much greater diversity in every district.
- The County Chair becomes accountable to all coalition partners in real time, not every 2 years. Saves cost and trouble of recalls.
- Input matches outcomes, fewer than 4% wasted votes. 96% - 98% of the electorate is accurately represented by party. 2% - 4% wasted votes vs. 2019 Mayoral election 63.8% 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 + MMP countywide 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 Broomfield, Colorado from being a "Flawed Democracy" to a "Full Democracy" in EIU Democracy Index criteria.

What's not to like? OK, it is more complex. The additional complexity in counting is more than made up for in fairness and inclusivity.

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

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

Boulder County   # Iceland

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.   www.bestdemocracy.org

Boulder County Hybrid Pro Rep
Inclusive Democracy for 330K population

Jesse Kumin

V 2.0 27 June 2021

Benefits

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.

www.bestdemocracy.org

Boulder Public Library © 2016 Jesse Kumin

Boulder, Colorado's At Large Plurality electoral system excludes voters. Trondheim, Norway's Party List system includes all voters.

Trondheim Kommune © 2016 Geir Hageskal
https://foto.trondheim.kommune.no/fotoweb/archives/5002-Åpent-arkiv/

Boulder		Trondheim
105,673	Population	205,332
City Council	Legislative Body	Bystyret
1	Chambers	1
1	Districts	1
9	Members per District	67
At Large Plurality	Electoral System	Party List Pro Rep
Yes	Spoiler Effect	Not Possible
2	Parties/Slates Represented	10
#25 (US)	EIU Democracy Index	#1 (Norway)

www.bestdemocracy.org

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Helsingborg Kommunfullmäktige © 2017 Jesse Kumin

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

Boulder, Colorado   Helsingborg, Sweden

Boulder, Colorado		Helsingborg, Sweden
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

* 1 Party Rule since 1975

www.bestdemocracy.org

Boulder Single Transferable Vote

Inclusive Government for 379,289 People

Jesse Kumin

V 1.0 25 June 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.

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

Remedies: Range/Score Voting in Single Member Districts
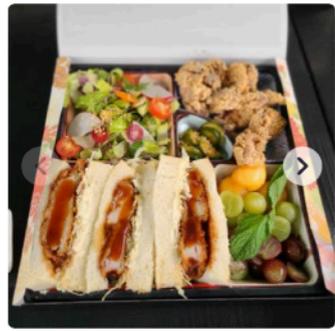
1. Saikai Ramen Bar
⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ 158
$$ • Ramen, Noodles

(323) 378-6518
209 N Western Ave
Koreatown

✓ Indoor & Outdoor dining   ✓ Delivery   ✓ Takeout

" to eat, and I was actually doing a Yelp search for another **Japanese** restaurant when I ran across" more

Start Order   Offers takeout and delivery

Anyone who has ever used Yelp or a hotel booking site knows how to use Score Voting.

Not all districts are legislative, some districts are administrative.

Offices like County Sheriff and County District Attorney require one lead administrator. Those offices could be folded into the legislative team elected to administrate a county or state, but in many cases, people may opt to keep them as separately elected offices. Range Voting, aka Olympic "Score" Voting is the fairest Single Member District (SMD) system.

- **Easiest to tabulate, fast results.**

- **Accurate reflection of voter intent.**

- **Most nuanced SMD system, more nuanced than ranking and approval voting.**

- **Nearly everyone is familiar with Scoring restaurants (Yelp) and hotels.**

- **Eliminates extremists who piss off a lot of voters, resulting in "0" ratings.**

www.bestdemocracy.org

Wikipedia Commons Photo

Abolish the US Senate

Plan A: It's Not Worth Saving

Acknowledge the gross distortions of representation and distribution of power and deal with them. The US Senate is redundant and not worth saving. Unicameral parliaments function more smoothly than bicameral parliaments. Time is of the essence. The more entrenched distortions shift power to rural and low population states, the more difficult Senate distortions will be to resolve.

Remedies

- Abolish the Senate.
- Change Congress to a unicameral legislature.
- Triple the House seats (frozen in size since 1929).
- Adopt Hybrid Proportional Representation (HPR) system in districts that extend over state lines.

Benefits

- Disperses power. Removes the concentration of power and redundancy of the Senate.
- Makes every voters' vote equal.
- Represents everyone.
- Makes Congress Proportional.
- Removes one of the primary distortions in how we're governed.
- Moves governance and consistency of policy toward the middle, instead of bipolar shifts.
- Remedies the slavers' bias favoring property over people.

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

Wikipedia Commons Photo

Rescue plan for the US Senate

Plan B: Don't Abolish the Senate, Fix the Distortions.

Acknowledge the gross distortions of representation and distribution of power in the US Senate and deal with them. Six year cycle elections are too infrequent to give lawmakers timely feedback of what the public wants. Time is of the essence. The more entrenched distortions shift power to rural and low population states, the more difficult Senate distortions will be to resolve.

Remedies

- Apply Proxy Voting to the Senate. Each Senator would vote 1/7th of the number of votes of the total electorate in their state at the last election.
- Increase every state's delegation to 7 members, all elected at the same time using Single Transferable Vote.
- Move elections to two, even year cycles.
- Include Puerto Rico and Washington D.C.

Benefits

- Disperses power.
- Makes every voters' vote equal. Places an incentive in each state to increase voter turnout.
- Represents everyone.
- Makes the Senate Proportional.
- Removes one of the primary distortions in how we're governed.
- Moves governance and consistency of policy toward the middle, instead of bipolar shifts.
- Remedies the slavers' bias favoring property over people.

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

BEST DEMOCRACY

Democratize the US Supreme Court

The solution to lifetime, unaccountable concentrated power, is term limited, accountable, dispersed power. Let's introduce Democracy to the Supreme Court, using Single Transferable Vote (STV): 4 Regional Districts, 7 seats each.

www.bestdemocracy.org/remedies/supreme-court.html

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:

√ Acknowledge that US elections are often predetermined, designed to exclude people, and distort outcomes.

√ Realize that systems designed to exclude people and distort outcomes, need systemic remedies.

√ Determine the most successful process for social change: King's 5 Step Protocol ended 100 years of Jim Crow.

√ Sort through election remedies for the best established models. All use Proportional Representation.

√ Look for a group working on Proportional Representation locally. Having found none …

√ Start Best Democracy. Develop Best Democracy communities interested in implementing Pro Rep.

√ Grow awareness of Pro Rep. Help people understand how proportional systems can benefit them.

√ Determine the best Pro Rep model: Hybrid Proportional Representation (HPR).

√ 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.

Step 5: Action, Achieving Social Change

Think Globally, Act Locally.

- Ask friends, neighbors and your cranky uncle, if they would rather be excluded or included in decision making. When/IF they decide they want to be included, explain how Pro Rep guarantees everyone a seat at the table.

- Introduce your state legislator and city council member to the concept of Pro Rep.

- Communicate with candidates for local, state and Congressional offices. Explain how fixing our democracy, taking a platform position for inclusion of everyone, can be a compelling advantage over their competition.

- Contact your elected representatives. Ask them what they're doing to make elections more fair and politicians more accountable. Ask them if they know about Proportional Representation. Educate them if they don't.

- Ask your Congressional Representative to support the "Fair Representation Act" HR 4000.

- Help start

Best Democracy

Best Democracy was started in Colorado on Facebook 09/ 2015. As of June/2021 we have 723 FB members from 35 US states, Washington D.C., 5 Canadian provinces, and in 25 countries.

- ## Join Best Democracy on Facebook.

- Go to the www.bestdemocracy.org 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.

www.bestdemocracy.org

Best Democracy

Introducing Hybrid Proportional Representation v2 Credits 26 June 2021

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Thank you everyone for all your help!

More info, candidate resources at www.bestdemocracy.org