DEMOCRACY AT WORK

ELECTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES

30 B VOTERS ELECT 3 PEOPLE • 10 A VOTERS ELECT 1 PERSON • 10 C VOTERS ELECT 1 PERSON
The Center for Voting and Democracy
WINNER-TAKE-ALL AT-LARGE

MOST VOTES WINS ALL

(VOTER GETS 5 VOTES, CAN GIVE ONE VOTE TO 5 DIFFERENT CANDIDATES)

30 B VOTERS ELECT 5 PEOPLE • 10 A VOTERS ELECT 0 PEOPLE • 10 C VOTERS ELECT 0 PEOPLE

The Center for Voting and Democracy
SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

= ✓
(VOTER GETS 1 VOTE, FIVE DISTRICTS HAVE 1 REPRESENTATIVE EACH)

DISTRICT 1
DISTRICT 2
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4
DISTRICT 5

VOTERS
A-2
B-6
C-2

ELECTS

VOTERS
A-3
B-6
C-1

ELECTS

VOTERS
A-2
B-7
C-1

ELECTS

VOTERS
A-2
B-4
C-3

ELECTS

VOTERS
A-1
B-3
C-0

ELECTS

REPRESENTATIVES: A-O • B-S • C-O
SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

DIFFERENT LINES CAUSE DIFFERENT RESULTS

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT 5

VOTERS
A-0
B-9
C-1
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-5
B-4
C-1
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-0
B-4
C-1
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-5
B-4
C-1
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-0
B-9
C-1
ELECTS

REPRESENTATIVES: A-2 • B-2 • C-1

The Center for Voting and Democracy
SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

PROBLEMS WITH A 'FAIR' GERRYMANDER

DISTRICT 2 VOTER BREAKDOWN

THOSE WHO PREFER THE WINNING CANDIDATE:

(TOTAL: 4 VOTERS)

THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE:

(TOTAL: 6 VOTERS)

REPRESENTATIVES: A-1 • B-3 • C-1

The Center for Voting and Democracy
## Voter Turnout Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Voter Turnout</th>
<th>System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>Mixed (25% PR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>PR (50% single-seat election)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>Plurality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>PR (preference voting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Majority run-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Plurality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States (1994)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>Plurality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: The Almanac of European Politics (Congressional Quarterly, 1995)*
Voting Methods around the World

**Winner-take-all**
The most votes wins (may be a majority or "substantial plurality" requirement)
- United States
- Great Britain
- Canada, India
- Australia, former British colonies
- France
- South Africa (pre-1993)

**Limited Voting (LV)**
Vote for fewer than the number of candidates to be elected
- Japan (pre-1994)
- U.S. and some NC localities
- Often used in voting-rights settlements

**Cumulative Voting (CV)**
Votes can be distributed in any combination, including all votes for one candidate
- Peoria, IL
- Chilton County, AL
- Alamogordo, NM
- Sisseton, SD
- Adopted in several other voting-rights settlements
- IL legislature (1870-1980)
- SC legislature (during Reconstruction)

**Preference Voting (PV)**
Rank candidates in order of preference; candidates win by reaching a threshold of top-ranked votes; surplus votes transferred to next-ranked candidates
- Ireland, Malta
- Australian upper chamber
- Cambridge, MA; has been used by 22 U.S. cities including Cincinnati; Boulder, Colo; New York; Wheeling, WV; Oak Ridge, TN

**Mixed Member PR (MMP)**
Some seats elected from single-member districts; some from party lists (usually half and half); seats awarded proportionally based on percent of vote with district seats counted toward a party's total
- Germany
- New Zealand (post 1994)
- *Mixed systems recently adopted by Russia, Mexico, Japan, and Italy are less proportional.*

**Party-list PR**
Ballots cast for a party's list of candidates; seats awarded based on percent of vote; some systems allow voting for candidates on the party list
- Most West European, Latin American, and former Soviet bloc countries
- Israel
- South Africa (4/94)

---

How effective is your vote?
The Center for Voting and Democracy
TYPES OF PR – LIST SYSTEM

ELECTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES

30 B VOTERS ELECT 3 PEOPLE • 10 A VOTERS ELECT 1 PERSON • 10 C VOTERS ELECT 1 PERSON
Congressional district boundaries effective January 28, 1992.

District A (10 seats)
Population: 7,373,223
Pop. per seat: 737,322
Winning %: 9.09%

District B (8 seats)
Population: 5,916,965
Pop. per seat: 739,621
Winning %: 11.11%

District C (12 seats)
Population: 8,863,164
Pop. per seat: 738,597
Winning %: 7.89%

District D (10 seats)
Population: 7,606,668
Pop. per seat: 760,667
Winning %: 9.09%

VAP = Voting Age Population

(Note: The winning threshold is the percentage of voters necessary to ensure election of one representative using a proportional voting system.)

The Center for Voting and Democracy
California: 4 Districts, 40 Seats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District A (10 seats)</th>
<th>District B (8 seats)</th>
<th>District C (12 seats)</th>
<th>District D (10 seats)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop. per seat: 737,322</td>
<td>Pop. per seat: 739,621</td>
<td>Pop. per seat: 738,597</td>
<td>Pop. per seat: 760,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winning %: 9.09%</td>
<td>Winning %: 11.11%</td>
<td>Winning %: 7.69%</td>
<td>Winning %: 9.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-white VAP: 30.71%</td>
<td>Non-white VAP: 33.80%</td>
<td>Non-white VAP: 54.40%</td>
<td>Non-white VAP: 32.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black VAP: 7.57%</td>
<td>Black VAP: 3.19%</td>
<td>Black VAP: 10.20%</td>
<td>Black VAP: 4.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian VAP: 10.60%</td>
<td>Asian VAP: 7.35%</td>
<td>Asian VAP: 10.30%</td>
<td>Asian VAP: 6.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino VAP: 11.59%</td>
<td>Latino VAP: 22.38%</td>
<td>Latino VAP: 33.30%</td>
<td>Latino VAP: 20.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other VAP: 0.98%</td>
<td>Other VAP: 0.87%</td>
<td>Other VAP: 0.00%</td>
<td>Other VAP: 0.74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1992 Presidential Results:

- **District A (10 seats)**
  - Clinton: 51.83%
  - Bush: 28.58%
  - Other: 19.59%

- **District B (8 seats)**
  - Clinton: 42.67%
  - Bush: 34.71%
  - Other: 22.62%

- **District C (12 seats)**
  - Clinton: 52.54%
  - Bush: 29.04%
  - Other: 18.42%

- **District D (10 seats)**
  - Clinton: 35.84%
  - Bush: 38.93%
  - Other: 25.24%

VAP = Voting Age Population

(Note: The winning threshold is the percentage of voters necessary to ensure election of one representative using a proportional voting system.)
TYPES OF PR – MIXED MEMBER SYSTEM

TYPES OF PR – LIST SYSTEM

ELECTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES

SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1
DISTRICT 2
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4
DISTRICT 5

VOTERS
A-1
B-1
C-0
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-4
B-3
C-3
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-2
B-7
C-1
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-1
B-4
C-5
ELECTS

VOTERS
A-1
B-2
C-1
ELECTS

The Center for Voting and Democracy
HOW YOU VOTE
FOR VOTERS, AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3

YOUR BALLOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>John Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maria Fernandez</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sam Johnson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRINCIPLES OF PREFERENCE VOTING

1. YOU RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.
2. YOUR TOP CANDIDATES HAVE THE BEST CHANCE TO WIN.
3. A LOWER CHOICE CAN'T DEFEAT A HIGHER CHOICE.
4. AS MANY VOTERS AS POSSIBLE WILL HELP ELECT CANDIDATES.
HOW YOU WIN

DETERMINING THE WINNING THRESHOLD

WINNING THRESHOLD = Votes/Seats

ELECTION FOR 5 SEATS WITH 50 VOTERS

WINNING THRESHOLD = Votes / Seats
= 50/5
= 10 votes = 20% of vote
PREFERENCE VOTING IN SINGLE WINNER RACE

ELECTING A MAJORITY PRESIDENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Count</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
<th>2nd Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSH:</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>+9</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINTON:</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>+10</td>
<td>53 ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEROT:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Absolute majority required to win: 50% + 1
REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AT ITS BEST

MAJORITY DECIDES, MINORITY EARN ITS FAIR SHARE

[Diagram showing the concept of representative democracy with majority decisions and minority earnings.]
SUMMARY

A CANDIDATES: 10 VOTERS ON FIRST COUNT → 1 SEAT
B CANDIDATES: 30 VOTERS ON FIRST COUNT → 3 SEATS
C CANDIDATES: 10 VOTERS ON FIRST COUNT → 1 SEAT

REPRESENTATIVES: A - 1  •  B - 3  •  C - 1