

Beyond the Binary: How People of Color Can (and Should) Break the Two-Party System



more equitable democracy



What is Democracy?

Name, Pronouns, Organization,, Geography



Goals

- Analyze our current election systems using a race lens
- Explore remedies to low POC Representation
- Identify potential action steps to bring home



Agenda

1. Values exercise
2. Voting Systems overview
3. Ranked Choice Voting results and discussion
4. Voting Systems and Race
5. How to increase POC Representation
6. Bringing it Home

Which values in an electoral system are most important to you?





Voter Choice

- Sufficient range of voter choice
- Sincere voting
- Maximum effective votes/minimum wasted votes



Campaigns & Participation

- Resistance to fraud and manipulation
- Campaigns that lead to public discourse
- Competitive elections
- Encourages voter participation



Who Wins

- Majority rule
- Minority representation
- Racially equitable representation
- Fair gender representation
- Reinforcement of two-party system
- Promotion of multi-party system



Governing Outcomes

- Stable and effective government
- Resistance to extremism
- Close link between constituents and reps
- Ease and use of administration



Types of Voting Systems



ATC

2018

CANTERBURY RACECOURSE

Australian Turf



Plurality vs Preferential

- FPTP uses plurality voting
- Other types of voting methods
 - Cumulative voting
 - Approval voting
 - Ranked choice voting (RCV)

Ranked-choice voting

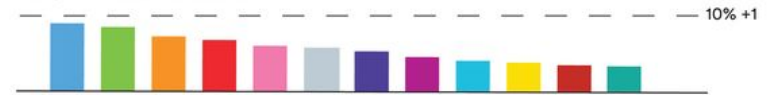


EXAMPLE BALLOT	1st CHOICE	2nd CHOICE	3rd CHOICE	4th CHOICE	5th CHOICE
Burrito	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green Relleno	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Red Enchilada	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taco	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tamale	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Single Transferable Vote

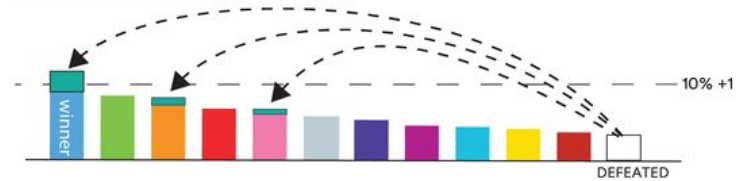
ROUND 1

Only 1st choices are counted.
Here, no candidate exceeded 10%.



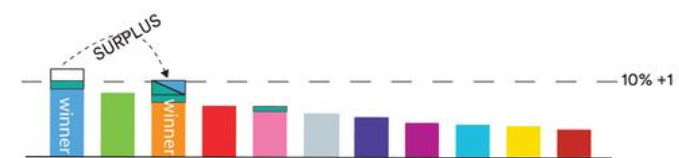
ROUND 2

The candidate with the fewest votes is defeated.
Votes for that candidate are counted for those
voters' 2nd choices. There is a winner!



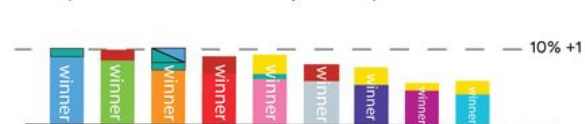
ROUND 3

Any surplus is shared
for voters' 2nd choices.
There is a second winner!



REPEAT

This continues until all seats are filled or a ballot has no more candidates.
These processes make sure as many votes as possible count in the election.



Voting Systems and Race



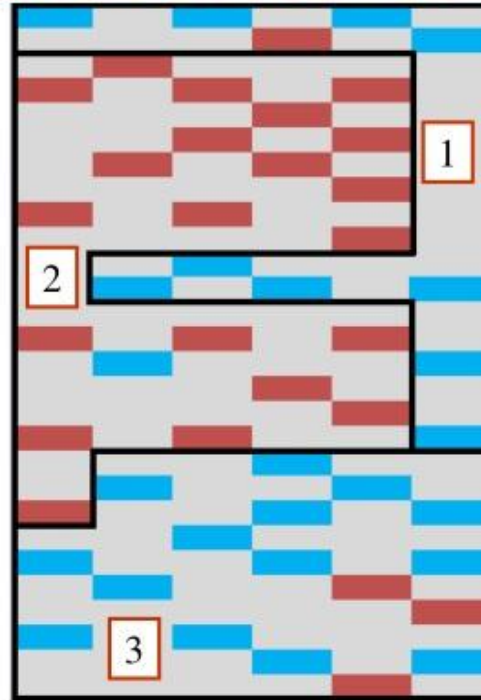


First Past The Post has been used to lock POC out of Democracy

- Vote Splitting
- Vulnerable to issues related to turnout
- Creates and enforces political binaries AKA the 2 party system

Districts and Gerrymandering

- ◆ Blue is gerrymandering.
- ◆ District 1 is *stacked* (and *packed*). (blue communities that are widely separated are connected).
- ◆ District 2 is *packed* (red communities are concentrated in one district).
- ◆ District 3 is *cracked* (red communities are "diluted" in a sea of blue communities).
- ◆ The result? Blue should always win two districts, red one.





Federal Voting Rights Act

- Pre-clearance section gutted in 2013
- Section 2, ability to challenge some voting systems, requires two conditions be met:
 - Racially polarized voting patterns
 - “Geographic concentration of a protected class sufficient to constitute the creation of a majority-minority district” - no coalition districts!

Proportional Representation

VIDEOS



Proportional Representation

# of Seats	% of votes necessary to win
1	(1/2 plus 1 vote) 50%+1
2	(1/3 plus 1 vote) 33.3%+1
3	(1/4 plus 1 vote) 25%+1
9	(1/10 plus 1 vote) 10%+1

$1/(1+N)$, N = # of elected seats

Bringing it Home






Bringing it Home

- State-based voting rights acts
- Conduct research on local voting systems, demographics
- Run local campaigns for RCV and Proportional Representation
- Invite Org and Community leaders to learn more about electoral systems reform and Proportional Representation
- Contact More Equitable Democracy to keep the conversation going!
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george@EquitableDemocracy.org
 - Heather Villanueva, Deputy Director
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Goals - Did we accomplish them?

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