Elections, Electoral Reform and Democracy

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Electoral Reform

• Voter Registration
• Ballot Tabulation Systems
  • On-line, vote by mail, optical scan, etc.
  • Security
• Campaign Finance
• Voting Systems
  • Fargo North Carolina – “approval voting”
Voting Systems Matter

- Imagine – Five Candidates
  - Allesandro
  - Baccus
  - Cisse
  - Dorian
  - Estay
- Twelve Voters
- Each has a clear ordered preference between the five candidates

A D E B C
A D E B C
A D E B C
A D E B C
A D E B C
B E D C A
B E D C A
B E D C A
C E D B A
C E D B A
C E D B A
D C B A E
E D C B A
E D C B A
Plurality Voting

A=33%
B=25%
C=17%
D=8%
E=17%

Two Stage Run-Off

Primary:
A=33%
B=25%
C=17%
D=8%
E=17%

Runoff:
B=66%
A=33%
 Ranked-Choice Voting

D eliminated,
E eliminated,
B eliminated,
C = 66%
A = 33%

Borda Count

A = 29
B = 34
C = 30
D = 44
E = 43
Condorcet Method

E > A (7 to 5)
A D E B C
E > B (8 to 4)
A D E B C
E > C (9 to 3)
A D E B C
E > D (7 to 5)
B E D C A
B E D C A
B E D C A
C E D B A
C E D B A
D C B A E
E D C B A
E D C B A

The Political Science of Voting Systems
The Rules Determine the Game

- Candidate Strategy
  - A single citywide constituency
  - To differentiate or not?
  - Negative campaigning
  - An “Anybody But” campaign

- Voter Strategy
  - Sincere or strategic voting?
  - Voter confusion and expressing all preferences

Voting Systems as Democratic Experiments

- Plurality Voting is Not Constitutionally Prescribed

- Plurality Voting and Political Polarization

  - Blanket Primary (CA and Washington - 2003)
  - Top Two Primary (“Jungle Primary”)
  - Two Stage Runoff
  - Approval Voting
  - Ranked Choice Voting
The Mechanics of Ranked Choice Voting: Simulations

www.menti.com
92 88 34

Three Elections:
- Ice Cream
- Favorite Color
- Baby Name
The “Typical” Outcomes of Ranked Choice Voting

Rank Choice Voting - Four Typical Scenarios

• Clear Victors
• Frontrunners
• Deadheats
• Scrambles
Electoral Administration and Democracy

Only about a third of Americans have a mix of conservative and liberal positions; in 2004, nearly half had mixed political values

Distribution of the public on a 10-item scale of political values

1994

Consistently liberal

2004

Consistently liberal

Consistently conservative

2017

Consistently liberal

Consistently conservative

More are now on the left and the right, with fewer holding a mix of positions.

Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see report methodology). Source: Survey conducted June 9-18, 2017.
Pew Research Center
Less overlap in the political values of Republicans and Democrats than in the past

Distribution of Republicans and Democrats on a co-here scale of political values

1994 2004 2017

Consistently liberal
Consistently conservative

64% of Democrats
70% of Democrats

48% of Republicans
43% of Republicans

3% of Republicans

3% of Republicans

Source: Survey conducted June 8-18, 2017.

Growing gaps between Republicans and Democrats across domains

% who say...

Government regulation of business usually does more harm than good
Government is almost always wasteful and inefficient
Poor people have it easy because they can get government benefits without working for anything in return
The government today can’t afford to do much more to help the needy
Most corporations make a fair and reasonable amount of profit

Blacks who can’t get ahead in this country are mostly responsible for their own condition
Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care
Homoemosexuality should be discouraged by society
The best way to ensure peace is through military strength
Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy

Source: Survey conducted June 8-18 and June 27-July 9, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Partisan gap in political values continues to grow

Average partisan gap in the share taking a conservative position across 10 political values

![Graph showing the partisan gap in political values from 1994 to 2017.]

Notes: Indicates gap between the share of Republicans/Republican leaners and the share of Democrats/Democratic leaners who favor a conservative position on 10 values items that have a traditional “left-right” placement.
Source: Survey conducted June 6-8 and June 27-July 3, 2017.

Pew Research Center

As partisan divides over political values widen, other gaps remain more modest

Average gap in the share taking a conservative position across 10 political values, by key demographics

![Graph showing the partisan divide and other gaps in political values from 1994 to 2017.]

Notes: Indicates average gap between the share of those favoring the conservative position on 10 values items. Party difference between Rep./Lean Rep. and Dem./Lean Dem. Race/racial non-Hispanic black non-Hispanic white college grad. Age, 18-45, 50-64, Religious weekly, Regular service attendance, too often.
Source: Survey conducted June 6-8 and June 27-July 3, 2017.

Pew Research Center
Figure 1. Thermometer Ratings of Parties.
Growing Animosity Across Party Lines

Democratic attitudes about the Republican Party
- 38% Very unfavorable

Republican attitudes about the Democratic Party
- 42% Very unfavorable

Note: Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents.

Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Partisans' ratings of Trump, Clinton and their voters

Mean thermometer ratings

Among Rep./Lean Rep. / Among Demo./Lean Dem.
- Trump voters: 77 / Clinton voters: 72
- Donald Trump: 71 / Clinton: 67
- Republicans: 69 / Democrats: 63
- Hillary Clinton: 36 / Trump voters: 24
- Clinton voters: 36 / Republicans: 28
- Trump voters: 18 / 2016

Note: Ratings are based on a “feeling thermometer” from 0 (colder) to 100 (warmer).
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 20-Dec. 12, 2016.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER