## Now and the Future

Charles Biles, Ph.D.
Mathematics 5: Contemporary Mathematics
College of the Redwoods
Spring Semester 2017
website: nia977.wix.com/drbcap
"... no political problem is less susceptible of a precise solution than that which relates to the number most convenient for a representative legislature, ..."

James Madison
The Federalist 55

## The Apportionment Problem

Determine how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives each state gets.

## CONGRESSIONAL SEATS


(US apportionment population $=309,183,463$ )/435 $\approx 710,767$

## They Mean Well

A modified divisor method first fixes the House size, then seeks a divisor that when the state's quotients are rounded and summed, the house size is achieved.


$$
\text { Webster: arithmetic mean } \frac{n+(n+1)}{2}=n+\frac{1}{2}
$$

Huntington-Hill: geometric mean $\sqrt{n(n+1)}$
Dean: harmonic mean $\frac{2}{\frac{1}{n}+\frac{1}{n+1}}=\frac{2 n(n+1)}{2 n+1}$

## Montana

In the 1990 apportionment, Montana lost one of its two seats it held for 80 years. In 1991 MT filed suit in federal district court (MT vs. US Dept Commerce).

MT argued the H-H method is unconstitutional and that either Dean's or Adams's method should be used. The federal judges voted 2-1 in favor of MT.

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## Apportionment Problems

On appeal the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the H-H method was constitutional. The district court's decision was overturned.
http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/91-860.ZS.html
http://caselaw.Ip.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US\&vol=503\&invol=442

## Today

https://www.census.gov/library/video/census appor tionment machine.html

## Today

Today the Census Bureau obtains apportionments using a priority technique of calculation rather than an ad-hoc technique of calculation.

## An Average Lesson

1. How to average two different positive numbers.
2. How to round a positive decimal number.

## An Average Lesson

1. The average of $a$ and $b$ where $0<a<b$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{ave}(a, b)=\max (a, b) & =b \\
\min (a, b) & =a \\
\operatorname{AM}(a, b) & =(a+b) / 2 \\
\operatorname{GM}(a, b) & =\sqrt{a \times b} \\
\operatorname{HM}(a, b) & =\frac{2}{\left(\frac{1}{a}+\frac{1}{b}\right)}=\frac{2 a b}{a+b}
\end{aligned}
$$

# Ad-hoc Modified Divisor 

Step 1. Decide the House size: $h$.
Step 2. Apply a basic divisor method to obtain the preset $h$.

## Serial Distribution

Step 1. Award 1 seat to each state. This distributes 50 seats.

Step 2. Then award the $51^{\text {st }}$ seat, $52^{\text {nd }}$ seat, $53^{\text {rd }}$ seat, etc., according to a list of priority numbers.

## Priority Numbers

| 2010 Census |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Seat | Priority | State | Apportionment |
| 434 | 711308 | CA | 53 |
| 435 | 710231 | MN | 8 |
| 436 | 709063 | NC | 14 |
| 437 | 708459 | MO | 9 |
| 438 | 706337 | NY | 28 |
| 439 | 70564 | NJ | 13 |
| 440 | 703158 | MT | 2 |

# Priority Numbers 

$$
\operatorname{PN}(n)=\frac{\text { population }}{\text { ave }(n, n+1)}
$$

## Priority Numbers

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\operatorname{PN}(n)=\frac{\text { population }}{\text { ave }(n, n+1)}
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where ave $(n, n+1)=$
Jefferson: $\max (n, n+1)$
Dean: $\mathrm{HM}(n, n+1)$
Huntington-Hill: GM $(n, n+1)$
Webster: AM $(n, n+1)$
Adams: $\min (n, n+1)$

## Priority Numbers

$$
\operatorname{PN}(n)=\frac{\text { population }}{\text { ave }(n, n+1)}
$$

where ave $(n, n+1)=$

Jefferson: $\max (n, n+1)$ Largest Divisors
Dean: HM $(n, n+1)$ Harmonic Mean
Huntington-Hill: GM(n,n+1) Equal Proportions
Webster: AM $(n, n+1)$ Major Fractions
Adams: min(n,n+1) Smallest Divisors

## Priority Numbers

| Census 1790 |  |
| ---: | ---: |
| State | Population |
| Connecticut | 236841 |
| Delaware | 55540 |
| Georgia | 70835 |
| Kentucky | 68705 |
| Maryland | 278514 |
| Massassachutts | 475327 |
| New Hampshire | 141822 |
| New Jersey | 179570 |
| New York | 331589 |
| North Carolina | 353523 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 |
| South Carolina | 206236 |
| Vermont | 85533 |
| Virginia | 630560 |
| United States | 3615920 |

## Priority Numbers

| Census 1790 |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | Population | Seats |
| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 |
| Georgia | 70835 | 1 |
| Kentucky | 68705 | 1 |
| Maryland | 278514 | 1 |
| Massassachutts | 475327 | 1 |
| New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 179570 | 1 |
| New York | 331589 | 1 |
| North Carolina | 353523 | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 | 1 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 |
| South Carolina | 206236 | 1 |
| Vermont | 85533 | 1 |
| Virginia | 630560 | 1 |
| United States | 3615920 | 15 |

## Priority Numbers

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| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 |
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| New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 179570 | 1 |
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| North Carolina | 353523 | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 | 1 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 |
| South Carolina | 206236 | 1 |
| Vermont | 85533 | 1 |
| Virginia | 630560 | 1 |
| United States | 3615920 | 15 |

Huntington - Hill
$\mathrm{PN}(1)=p / \sqrt{1 \times 2}=p / \sqrt{2}$

## Priority Numbers

| Census 1790 |  |  | H-H |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | Population | Seats | Priority |
| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |
| Georgia | 70835 | 1 | 50087 |
| Kentucky | 68705 | 1 | 48581 |
| Maryland | 278514 | 1 | 196939 |
| Massassachutts | 475327 | 1 | 336106 |
| New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 | 100283 |
| New Jersey | 179570 | 1 | 126975 |
| New York | 331589 | 1 | 234468 |
| North Carolina | 353523 | 1 | 249978 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 | 1 | 306091 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 | 48398 |
| South Carolina | 206236 | 1 | 145830 |
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| Virginia | 630560 | 1 | 445873 |
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## Priority Numbers

16 VA 2

| Census 1790 |  |  | H-H |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | Population | Seats | Priority |
| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |
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| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 | 48398 |
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| United States | 3615920 | 16 |  |

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Huntington - Hill

$$
\operatorname{PN}(1)=p / \sqrt{1 \times 2}=p / \sqrt{2}
$$

$$
\operatorname{PN}(2)=p / \sqrt{2 \times 3}=p / \sqrt{6}
$$

## Priority Numbers

16 VA 2
17 MA 2

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## Priority Numbers

|  | Census 1790 |  |  | H-H | Huntington - Hill |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | State | Population | Seats | Priority |  |
| 16 VA 2 | Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |  |
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|  | Massassachutts | 475327 | 2 | 194051 |  |
|  | New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 | 100283 |  |
|  | New Jersey | 179570 | 1 | 126975 |  |
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|  | South Carolina | 206236 | 1 | 145830 |  |
|  | Vermont | 85533 | 1 | 60480 |  |
|  | Virginia | 630560 | 2 | 257425 |  |
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Huntington - Hill
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## Priority Numbers

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
16 & \text { VA } & 2 \\
17 & \text { MA } & 2 \\
18 & \text { PA } & 2
\end{array}
$$

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| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |
| Georgia | 70835 | 1 | 50087 |
| Kentucky | 68705 | 1 | 48581 |
| Maryland | 278514 | 1 | 196939 |
| PN |  |  |  |
| PN $(2)=p / \sqrt{1 \times 2}=p / \sqrt{2 \times 3}=p / \sqrt{6}$ |  |  |  |
| Massassachutts | 475327 | 2 | 194051 |
| New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 | 100283 |
| New Jersey | 179570 | 1 | 126975 |
| New York | 331589 | 1 | 234468 |
| North Carolina | 353523 | 1 | 249978 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 | 2 | 306091 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 | 48398 |
| South Carolina | 206236 | 1 | 145830 |
| Vermont | 85533 | 1 | 60480 |
| Virginia | 630560 | 2 | 257425 |
| United States | 3615920 | 18 |  |

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\begin{array}{lll}
16 & \text { VA } & 2 \\
17 & \text { MA } & 2 \\
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\end{array}
$$



## Priority Numbers

16 VA 2
17 MA 2
18 PA 2

| Census 1790 |  |  | H-H |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | Population | Seats | Priority |
| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |
| Georgia | 70835 | 1 | 50087 |
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| New York | 331589 | 1 | 234468 |
| North Carolina | 353523 | 1 | 249978 |
| Pennsylvania | 432879 | 2 | 176722 |
| Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 | 48398 |
| South Carolina | 206236 | 1 | 145830 |
| Vermont | 85533 | 1 | 60480 |
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| United States | 3615920 | 18 |  |

## Priority Numbers

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\begin{array}{lll}
16 & \text { VA } & 2 \\
17 & \text { MA } & 2 \\
18 & \text { PA } & 2
\end{array}
$$

| Census 1790 |  |  | H-H |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| State | Population | Seats | Priority |
| Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |
| Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |
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## Priority Numbers



## Priority Numbers

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
16 & \text { VA } & 2 \\
17 & \text { MA } & 2 \\
18 & \text { PA } & 2 \\
19 & \text { VA } & 3
\end{array}
$$



## Priority Numbers

|  | Census 1790 |  |  | H-H | Huntington - Hill |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | State | Population | Seats | Priority |  |
| 16 VA 2 | Connecticut | 236841 | 1 | 167471 |  |
| 17 MA 2 | Delaware | 55540 | 1 | 39272 |  |
| 18 PA 2 | Georgia | 70835 | 1 | 50087 | $\operatorname{PN}(1)=p / \sqrt{1 \times 2}=p / \sqrt{2}$ |
| 19 VA 3 | Kentucky | 68705 | 1 | 48581 |  |
|  | Maryland | 278514 | 1 | 196939 | $\operatorname{PN}(2)=p / \sqrt{2 \times 3}=p / \sqrt{6}$ |
|  | Massassachutts | 475327 | 2 | 194051 |  |
|  | New Hampshire | 141822 | 1 | 100283 | $\operatorname{PN}(3)=p / \sqrt{3 \times 4}=p / \sqrt{12}$ |
|  | New Jersey | 179570 | 1 | 126975 |  |
|  | New York | 331589 | 1 | 234468 |  |
|  | North Carolina | 353523 | 1 | 249978 |  |
|  | Pennsylvania | 432879 | 2 | 176722 |  |
|  | Rhode Island | 68446 | 1 | 48398 |  |
|  | South Carolina | 206236 | 1 | 145830 |  |
|  | Vermont | 85533 | 1 | 60480 |  |
|  | Virginia | 630560 | 3 | 182026 |  |
|  | United States | 3615920 | 19 |  |  |

## Priority Numbers

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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## Today

$$
\begin{aligned}
& A_{n}=\frac{P}{\operatorname{ave}(n, n+1)} \\
& A_{n}=\frac{P}{\sqrt{n \times(n+1)}}
\end{aligned}
$$

## The Future: Reform?

## Four Proposals:

## The Future: Reform?

## Four Proposals:

- Thirty-thousand.org
- The Wyoming Rule
- Neubauer and Gartner
- Webster's Method


## thirty-thousand.org

Here's an example of a concerned group:
http://www.thirty-thousand.org/

## thirty-thousand.org

Here's an example of a concerned group:

## http://www.thirty-thousand.org/

Comment: This leads to a House with 10283 representatives.

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Comment: This leads to a House with 10283 representatives.

CA: 1244 seats!

## thirty-thousand.org

Here's an example of a concerned group:

## http://www.thirty-thousand.org/

Thirty-thousand.org advocates 50000/representative.
This leads to a House with 6181 representatives using Webster's method of rounding.

California gets 747 seats.

## The Wyoming Rule

The Wyoming Rule is a basic divisor method in which the divisor is the population of the least populous state (currently WY; hence, the name).
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming Rule
http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/representation-in-the-house-the-wyoming-rule/

## The Wyoming Rule

Here are the results of applying the WY Rule to the 2000 and 2010 censuses.

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2000 smallest state: WY, 493782.
$h=569$ Huntington-Hill
2010 smallest state: WY, 563626 $h=543$ Dean HI
$h=542$ Huntington-Hill $h=540$ Webster NJ, SD

## A Proposal

A Proposal for Apportioning the House
Michael G. Neubauer, CSU Northridge, Mathematics
Margo G. (Gartner) Carr, Fordham University
...the problem of finding a "good" house size and "right" apportionment method are best considered together.

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Source: PSC 44(1), January 2011: 1—3.

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Source: PSC 44(1), January 2011: 1—3.

## Webster's Method

The simplest reform would be to replace the geometric mean of decimal rounding in the Huntington-Hill method by the arithmetic mean of decimal rounding in Webster's method.

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The research of Balinski and Young has produced two key results. Since the Alabama paradox is a deal-breaker, then congressional apportionment must be based on a divisor method.

Further, Webster's is the only rounding method that produces results that are unbiased towards either larger or smaller states.

An Application

## An Application

## Resolved: The electoral system for electing the President should be replaced by the popular vote.

## An Election is an example of a basic problem.

An Election is an example of a basic problem.
How can one say something informative about a group when the individuals in the group are all different?

## Voters

## Ballots

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Who } \\
& \text { wins? }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Ballots

## What do you see?



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## Two Models

> Electoral College Model
$>$ States Model

## Electoral College Model



## States Model



## The States Model

In a presidential election in The United
States the electorate consists of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

## The States Model

In a presidential election in The United
States the electorate consists of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

The ballot is not one-state, one-vote.
The ballot is a weighted ballot as determined by the electoral system.

## The Electoral College

The President is elected by a majority vote of the electors as specified by the U. S. Constitution, Article II, Section 1 with Amendment XII (ratified in 1804) and Amendment XX (ratified in 1933).

## The Electoral College

The College consists of a slate of electors from each state. The number of electors equals the number of members of Congress-the number of representatives in the House plus two senators.

Amendment XXIII (ratified 1961) allows the District of Columbia a slate of three electors.


## Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2010 Census



[^0]76

## Small State Bias

The Electoral College is heavily weighted towards smaller states.

California has 66 times the population of Wyoming.
The electoral vote ratio is CA 55 and WY 3.

## The Aftermath

Michel Balinski, Professor of Mathematics at SUNY Stony Brook and H. Peyton Young, Professor of Mathematics at Johns Hopkins, proved the following theorem in 1982:

There are no perfect apportionment methods.

Any method that satisfies the quota rule produces paradoxes; any method that is free of the Alabama paradox may violate the quota rule.

## The Presidential Election

In each state except Maine and Nebraska, the electoral slate is awarded to the plurality winner of the state's popular vote, known as "winner take all."

When you cast a vote for candidate $X$ in a presidential election, you are casting a vote for X's slate of electors in your state.

## The Presidential Election

In Maine (1972) and Nebraska (1992), two electoral votes go to the statewide plurality winner. The remaining electoral votes are distributed to the plurality winner of each congressional district.

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In 2016 in Maine Clinton won 3 electoral votes and Trump 1 electoral vote.

## The 2016 Presidential Election

The popular vote:

| Hillary Clinton: | $65,844,610$ | $48.2 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Donald Trump: | $62,979,636$ | $46.1 \%$ |
| Others: | $7,804,213$ | $5.7 \%$ |

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The Electoral College vote:
Hillary Clinton: 227
Donald Trump: 304
Others: 7

## The Popular Vote

Arguably, on 4 other occasions in U. S. history the electoral and popular systems produced different results.

1. John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson 1824
2. Rutherford B. Hayes vs. Samuel Tilden 1876
3. Benjamin Harrison vs. Grover Cleveland 1888
4. George Bush vs. Al Gore 2000

## 1876

| Candidate | Party | Popular Vote | Electoral Vote |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rutherford B. Hayes (OH) | Republican | $4,034,142$ | 185 |
| Samuel J. Tilden (NY) | Democratic | $4,286,808$ | 184 |
| Peter Cooper (NY) | Greenback | 83,726 | --- |

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Lesson: Hayes' Electoral College victory was an artifact of the method used for congressional apportionment.

The original apportionment bill based on the 1870 census used the Hamilton Quota Method. The 1872 supplement bill added nine seats but used a different method. The supplement's method flipped seats for Illinois and New York to New Hampshire and Florida.

## 2000

| Candidate | Party | Popular Vote | Electoral Vote |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| George W. Bush (TX) | Republican | $5,443,633$ | 271 |
| Albert Gore (TN) | Democratic | $5,538,163$ | 266 |
| Ralph Nader (DC) | Green | 250,017 | --- |
| Patrick Buchanan (VA) | Reform | 149,115 | --- |

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Lesson: Bush's Electoral College victory was an artifact of the size of the House of Representatives.

## Neubauer and Zeitlin

Neubauer and Zeitlin calculated the Electoral College vote based on House sizes 50-1000 using the current method of congressional apportionment. As the House size ranges from 50 to 1000, the 2000 election would have produced Electoral College ties for 25 House sizes.

For all House sizes larger than 597 , except 655 which produces a tie, Gore wins. For all House sizes smaller than 491 Bush wins.

## Neubauer and Zeitlin

In the intermediate range 492-597 the winner oscillates randomly between Bush and Gore.

For these 106 House sizes, Bush and Gore tie 24 times, Bush wins 53 times, and Gore wins 29 times.
http://www.thirty-thousand.org/pages/Neubauer-Zeitlin.htm

## 2000

The 2000 election displays another potential problem. The number of electoral votes each state gets is tied to the decennial census. Although the election was in 2000, apportionment of the House was based on the 1990 census. An election held in a census year is based on a population that is ten years old.

What would have been the result of Bush vs. Gore if the Electoral College vote were based on the 2000 census for congressional apportionment?

## 2000

In comparison with the 1990 census the 2000 census affected congressional apportionment for eighteen states:

Arizona, gain 2; California, gain 1; Colorado, gain 1; Connecticut, lose 1; Florida, gain 2; Georgia, gain 2; Illinois, lose 1; Indiana, lose 1; Michigan, lose 1; Mississippi, lose 1; Nevada, gain 1; New York, lose 2; North Carolina, gain 1; Ohio, lose 1; Oklahoma, lose 1; Pennsylvania, lose 2; Texas, gain 2; Wisconsin, lose 1.

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Accordingly, the electoral vote would have changed from
Bush 271 and Gore 266
to
Bush 277 and Gore 259.

## Reform

Over the past 200 years, over 700 proposals have been introduced in Congress to reform or eliminate the Electoral College. There have been more proposals for Constitutional amendments on changing the Electoral College than on any other subject.
https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/faq.html\#whyec

## Today's Debate

Resolved: The electoral system should be replaced by a popular vote system.

What's the Popular Vote System?

## The 2016 Presidential Election

The popular vote:

| Hillary Clinton: | $65,844,610$ | $48.2 \%$ |
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## Arrow's Theorem



There is no voting system that can satisfy basic requirements of fairness in all cases.

Nobel Prize in Economics 1972

## Fairness Axioms

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- Individual Sovereignty


## Question 1

## Should there be a uniform national presidential ballot?

$>$ Should there be a national ballot access law?

## Question 1

## Should there be a uniform national presidential ballot?

> Should there be a national ballot access law? Ballots differ from state to state. GA, IN, OK only listed 3 candidates; CA 5; TN 7; UT 10; CO 22.
http://www.politico.com/2016-election/results/map/president

## Question 1

## Should there be a uniform national presidential ballot?

$>$ Should there be a national ballot access law?
> Should there be a write-in provision? Today nine states do not allow a write-in.
https://ballotpedia.org/Ballot access for presidential candidates

## Question 2

Should there be a uniform national standard for voter suffrage?

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Should there be a uniform national standard for voter suffrage?
$>$ Should all American citizens "in goodstanding" be allowed to vote in the national popular election for President?
http://felonvoting.procon.org/view.resource.p hp?resourcelD=000286

## Question 2

Should there be a uniform national standard for voter suffrage?
$>$ Should all American citizens "in goodstanding" be allowed to vote in the national popular election for President?
> What about American citizens who live in a U.S. territory but are not citizens of a state or residents of D. C.?

## Question 3

What should be the structure of the ballot in a national presidential election?

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> Ranked choice voting.

## The Ballot

An election must feature a ballot. We will assume the ballot is the same for each voter; further, one person/one ballot.

## The Ballot

## The structure of the ballot determines

 your voice in an election.
## The Ballot

## A two-option ballot looks like this:

| Vote for One |
| :--- |
| $\square$ Option A |
| $\square$ Option B |

## The Single Vote Ballot

A multi-option ballot looks like this:

| Instruction |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ | Option A |
| $\square$ | Option B |
| $\square$ | Option C |
| $\square$ | Option D |
| $\square$ | Option E |

## The Single Vote Ballot

A multi-option ballot looks like this:

| Vote for One |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ | Option A |
| $\square$ | Option B |
| $\square$ | Option C |
| $\square$ | Option D |
| $\square$ | Option E |

## Approval Voting

A multi-option ballot looks like this:

| Approval List |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ Option A | Vote for all options |
| $\square$ Option B | that you approve. |
| $\square$ Option C |  |
| $\square$ Option D |  |
| $\square$ Option E |  |

## Ranked Choice Voting

In a ranked choice ballot the voter ranks some or all of the candidates.

In a top three system, you rank your top 3 choices as 1,2 , or 3 .

In a full ranked system, if the ballot displays five choices, then you rank those choices 1 though 5.

> News Flash In the 2016 elections Maine approved a full ranked system for statewide offices.
> https://ballotpedia.org/Maine Ranked Choice Voting Initiative, Question 5 (2016)

## Instant Runoff Voting

| Rank the options |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Option | Rank |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | 2 | 34 | 5 |
| A | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 |
| B | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 |
| C | $\bigcirc$ | O | 0 | $\bigcirc$ |
| D | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 |
| E | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | 0 |

## Instant Runoff Voting

|  | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| First | A | B | C | D | E | E |  |  |  |  |  |
| Second | D | E | B | C | B | C |  |  |  |  |  |
| Third | E | D | E | E | D | D |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fourth | C | C | D | B | C | B |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fifth | B | A | A | A | A | A |  |  |  |  |  |
| N $=55,28$ needed to win. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Rank the options |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Option | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |  |  |
| A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |
| E | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |

## Instant Runoff Voting

|  | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| First | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| Second | D | E | B | C | B | C |
| Third | E | D | E | E | D | D |
| Fourth | C | C | D | B | C | B |
| Fifth | B | A | A | A | A | A |
| N $=55,28$ needed to win. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

To win: majority of first place votes.

Here, no candidate gets a majority of first place votes.

## Instant Runoff Voting

|  | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| First | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| Second | D | E | B | C | B | C |
| Third | E | D | E | E | D | D |
| Fourth | C | C | D | B | C | B |
| Fifth | B | A | A | A | A | A |

Eliminate the "least fit" candidate and then recount the votes.

## Instant Runoff Voting

|  | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| First | A | C | C | C | C | C |
| Second |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Third |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fourth |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fifth |  |  |  |  |  |  |$|$| A | A |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | A |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}=55,28$ needed to win. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Eliminate the "least fit" candidate and then recount the votes. Eliminate E.

Next eliminate D.
Next eliminate B.
C wins: 37-18!

## Instant Runoff Voting

|  | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| First | A | B | C | D | E | E |
| Second | D | E | B | C | B | C |
| Third | E | D | E | E | D | D |
| Fourth | C | C | D | B | C | B |
| Fifth | B | A | A | A | A | A |
| N $=55,28$ needed to win. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Question: How many votes did C get?


## State Sovereignty

Or, we could just keep the election as a "state's rights" matter.

Ballot access, ballot structure, suffrage, voting mechanics would be left up to each state. Then count the current popular vote in each state as is currently done.

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Ballot access, ballot structure, suffrage, voting mechanics would be left up to each state. Then count the current popular vote in each state as is currently done.
What could possibly go wrong?

Should the electoral system be replaced by a popular vote system?

What is an election?

## Thank You

It is time that I took my seat in this House!
http://www.nia977.wix.com/drbcap

## Bonus Resources

## Related Problems

Other problems related to apportionment include:

One Voter, One Vote: The Apportionment of Congressional Seats Reconsidered Author(s): Howard A. Scarrow
Source: Polity, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Winter, 1989), pp. 253-268
Published by: Palgrave Macmillan Journals
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## Gerrymandering


http://www.nationalatlas.gov/printable/congress.html\#al

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## Gerrymandering



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Other problems related to apportionment include:
$>$ Census: who is "enumerated."
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> The Ballot Options
$>$ Voting: the mechanism of voting.
$>$ Decision: how does one decide the winner?

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Source: Polity, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Winter, 1989), pp. 253-268
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## The Apportionment Problem

The Problem is nicely explained in the website:
http://www.ams.org/samplings/feature-column/fcarc-apportion1

## Presidential Elections

The 1870s saw a new twist in apportionment that spilled over into a Presidential election. In the apportionment of 1871, the House size was set to 292. Hamilton's method was legally in place. Yet the actual apportionment approved by Congress differed in four states from the Hamilton apportionment. NY was assigned 33 seats, IL 19, NH 3, and FL 2. But Hamilton's method would have given NY 34, IL 20, NH 2, and FL 1. Whatever Congress may have intended, the apportionment they approved is one that would have been given by Dean's method for the Census of 1870.

Source:
http://mathdl.maa.org/mathDL/46/?pa=content\&sa=viewDocument\&nodeld=3163\&pf=1

## Presidential Elections

Why is this such a big deal? In the closely contested election of 1876, Samuel Tilden won NY while his opponent, Rutherford B. Hayes, won the other three states. Hayes beat Tilden in the Electoral College 185 to 184. Had Hamilton's method been followed, the count in the College would have been reversed and Tilden would have been elected!

See the spreadsheet 1876 apportion for an illustration of the Hamilton calculation as compared to the actual apportionment and for a tabulation of the electoral votes in the election of 1876.

## Presidential Elections

So in 1876 , Hayes won under a Dean apportionment but would have lost under a Hamilton apportionment, even if no other factors had changed. Now let's jump forward to the Presidential election of 2000. In the Electoral College, George W. Bush defeated Al Gore by a tally of 271 to 266 . (Gore should have had 267 votes, but one of his electors from Washington, D.C. abstained.) Had the Congress used Jefferson's method to apportion the House after the 1990 census, Gore would have garnered 271 electoral votes and become the President. Even more intriguingly, had Hamilton's method been in place, the Electoral College vote would have been tied at 269 and the election thrown to the House of Representatives for resolution. Methods of apportionment do have practical consequences!

## Washington's Veto

United States [Philadelphia] April 51792.

## Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

I have maturely considered the Act passed by the two Houses, intitled, "An Act for an apportionment of Representatives among the several States according to the first enumeration," and I return it to your House, wherein it originated, with the following objections.

First-The Constitution has prescribed that representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers: and there is no one proportion or divisor which, applied to the respective numbers of the States will yield the number and allotment of representatives proposed by the Bill.

Second-The Constitution has also provided that the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand; which restriction is, by the context, and by fair and obvious construction, to be applied to the seperate and respective numbers of the States: and the bill has allotted to eight of the States, more than one for thirty thousand.

George Washington.


## First Apportionment

## Act

> Chap. XXIII.-An Jet for apportioning Representatives among the several States, according to the first enumeration.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the third day of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, the House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected agreeably to a ratio of one member for every thirty-three thousand persons in each state, computed according to the rule prescribed by the constitution; that is to say: Within the state of New Hampshire, four; within the state of Massachussetts, fourteen; within the state of Vermont, two; within the state of Rhode Island, two; within the state of Connecticut, seven; within the state of New York, ten; within the state of New Jersey, five; within the state of Pennsylvania, thirteen; within the state of Delaware, one; within the state of Maryland, eight; within the state of Virginia, nineteen; within the state of Kentucky, two; within the state of North Carolina, ten; within the state of South Carolina, six; and within the state of Georgia, two members.

Approved, April 14, 1792.

## 1790: Why 33000?

| State | Population | 30000 | 31000 | 32000 | 33000 | 34000 | 35000 | 36000 | 37000 | 38000 | 39000 | 40000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CN | 236841 | 0.8947 | 0.6400 | 0.4013 | 0.1770 | 0.9659 | 0.7669 | 0.5789 | 0.4011 | 0.2327 | 0.0728 | 0.9210 |
| DE | 55540 | 0.8513 | 0.7916 | 0.7356 | 0.6830 | 0.6335 | 0.5869 | 0.5428 | 0.5011 | 0.4616 | 0.4241 | 0.3885 |
| GA | 70835 | 0.3612 | 0.2850 | 0.2136 | 0.1465 | 0.0834 | 0.0239 | 0.9676 | 0.9145 | 0.8641 | 0.8163 | 0.7709 |
| KY | 68705 | 0.2902 | 0.2163 | 0.1470 | 0.0820 | 0.0207 | 0.9630 | 0.9085 | 0.8569 | 0.8080 | 0.7617 | 0.7176 |
| MD | 278514 | 0.2838 | 0.9843 | 0.7036 | 0.4398 | 0.1916 | 0.9575 | 0.7365 | 0.5274 | 0.3293 | 0.1414 | 0.9629 |
| MA | 475327 | 0.8442 | 0.3331 | 0.8540 | 0.4038 | 0.9802 | 0.5808 | 0.2035 | 0.8467 | 0.5086 | 0.1879 | 0.8832 |
| NH | 141822 | 0.7274 | 0.5749 | 0.4319 | 0.2976 | 0.1712 | 0.0521 | 0.9395 | 0.8330 | 0.7322 | 0.6365 | 0.5456 |
| NJ | 179570 | 0.9857 | 0.7926 | 0.6116 | 0.4415 | 0.2815 | 0.1306 | 0.9881 | 0.8532 | 0.7255 | 0.6044 | 0.4893 |
| NY | 331589 | 0.0530 | 0.6964 | 0.3622 | 0.0482 | 0.7526 | 0.4740 | 0.2108 | 0.9619 | 0.7260 | 0.5023 | 0.2897 |
| NC | 353523 | 0.7841 | 0.4040 | 0.0476 | 0.7128 | 0.3977 | 0.1007 | 0.8201 | 0.5547 | 0.3032 | 0.0647 | 0.8381 |
| PA | 432879 | 0.4293 | 0.9638 | 0.5275 | 0.1175 | 0.7317 | 0.3680 | 0.0244 | 0.6994 | 0.3916 | 0.0995 | 0.8220 |
| RI | 68446 | 0.2815 | 0.2079 | 0.1389 | 0.0741 | 0.0131 | 0.9556 | 0.9013 | 0.8499 | 0.8012 | 0.7550 | 0.7112 |
| SC | 206236 | 0.8745 | 0.6528 | 0.4449 | 0.2496 | 0.0658 | 0.8925 | 0.7288 | 0.5739 | 0.4273 | 0.2881 | 0.1559 |
| VT | 85533 | 0.8511 | 0.7591 | 0.6729 | 0.5919 | 0.5157 | 0.4438 | 0.3759 | 0.3117 | 0.2509 | 0.1932 | 0.1383 |
| VA | 630560 | 0.0187 | 0.3406 | 0.7050 | 0.1079 | 0.5459 | 0.0160 | 0.5156 | 0.0422 | 0.5937 | 0.1682 | 0.7640 |
| US | 3615920 | 8.5307 | 8.6426 | 6.9975 | 4.5733 | 6.3506 | 7.3120 | 9.4422 | 9.7276 | 8.1558 | 5.7159 | 9.3980 |
|  | Unrepresen | 255920 | 267920 | 223920 | 150920 | 215920 | 255920 | 339920 | 359920 | 309920 | 222920 | 375920 |

## Alabama Paradox

How is this possible?

| State | House $\mathbf{2 9 9}$ | House $\mathbf{3 0 0}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| AL | 7.646 | 7.671 |
| TX | 9.640 | 9.672 |
| IL | 18.640 | 18.702 |

With the House size at 299, Alabama was the last state to be allotted an extra representative to make the House size because of it's decimal. When the House size was increased to 300, all states' quotas were increased by $0.33 \%$. And there were two states that got the extra representatives; and, this time, Texas and Illinois beat out Alabama.

## US Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau is housed within the Department of Commerce.

Check out the U.S. Census Bureau for what it says about apportionment.
http://www.census.gov/

Summary 7-page brochure:
http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-08.pdf

History of Legislation:
http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/apportionment/apportion ment legislation 1790 - 1830.html

## More!

For playing around, learning or teaching:
http://www.cut-the-knot.org/ctk/Democracy.shtml

## Google

## Google

US House apportionment

## US History

The first proposed amendment to the US Constitution was called Article the First, also referred to as the Congressional Apportionment Amendment:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article the First

## Key Decades

The key decades in the history of the Congressional apportionment problem are 1790, 1840 and 1850, and 1920. Here are some excellent resources for each of these periods.
> Edmund J. James, The First Apportionment of Federal Representatives in the United States, Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 9 (January 1897): 1-41.
> Johanna Nicol Shields, Whigs Reform the "Bear Garden":
Representation and the Apportionment Act of 1842, Journal of the Early Republic, 5 (Fall 1983): 356-82.
> Charles W. Eagles, Democracy Delayed: Congressional Reapportionment and Urban-Rural Conflict in the 1920s, University of Georgia Press, 1990.

## US History

For any serious research of U.S. history, one must know about the Journals of Congress which includes the House Journal and the Senate Journal:
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhj.html


[^0]:    US. Department of Commerce

