
electoral college Voting power (was Electoral College abolition)

Posted by Dave Simpson - 2009/11/05 22:58

I'm perfectly happy with, and in fact I favor doing away with having delegates do the actual voting, but not for doing away with the strength of each states vote being different. There are alternatives that can be chosen that lie between equal votes for each state and voting power according to population (or size of electorate). Having some intermediate value in fact should be paramount and requisite if ever we went from a bicameral to a unicameral Congress. (That same would be true if we went to a unicameral United Nations Organization.) One way is to weigh the votes equal to the square roots of the respective populations (or electorates, roughly half the population as a first cut at this for those who are curious). Such voting power weighting of voting blocs is as interesting a legitimate subject of change and improvement to our current system as is proportional representation and adoption of approval voting. The bureaucrats in the EU have been grappling with this voting power issue for a number of years now. Weighting of votes, or voting power (which is a familiar phrase used in this context), is a common and important issue in a number of cases involving voting bodies world-wide. Interest in this concept of voting power is also shared with a number of academics (Penrose's square root law, the Banzhof power index, etc.). The European example includes a set of nations of varying population sizes with the same level if not higher level of importance regarding voting power. (Interested readers should examine all of the following examples, then select those that are of more interest to satisfy their initial interest and guide them to seek additional information as they are so motivated.) (Note that EU objectives often involve a 62% vote fraction. Inquisitive readers probably recognize this as the logical value for a supermajority, or qualified majority in EU jargon, the golden or divine proportion.) <http://arxiv.org/ftp/cond-mat/papers/0405/0405396.pdf> <http://netec.mcc.ac.uk/WoPEc/data/Papers/ctlouvir1996022.html> <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/~ecaae/> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/cpnss/projects/vp.html> <http://faculty.niagara.edu/sqkelly/voting%20power.htm> http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-07/bpl-cvp072304.php <http://acm.uva.es/p/v4/435.html> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/niza.htm> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/powerEU1.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/eupower2.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/notebook/eu15nice.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/notebook/eu25nice.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/eurules.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/enlargue.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/eustar.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/Constitution.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/majority.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/generat.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/banzhaf.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/pdffiles/letter.pdf> <http://www.esi2.us.es/~mbilbao/notebook/votingnb.pdf> <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/members.htm> <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/ORGANIZATION/BODE...> Dave Simpson

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<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/ORGANIZATION/BODE...> - Hide quoted text -- Show quoted text - Dave Simpson

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Posted by Dave Simpson - 2009/11/05 22:58

This is a Republic. The electoral college is part of it for a legitimate reason. PERIOD! Democracy without competence or virtue is a bad thing, indeed. Dave Simpson

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Posted by Liberty1st - 2009/11/05 22:58

reason. PERIOD! Democracy without competence or virtue is a bad thing, indeed. Dave Simpson I'll second that.

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Posted by Gregory Gadow - 2009/11/05 22:58

This is a Republic. The electoral college is part of it for a legitimate reason. PERIOD! Democracy without competence or virtue is a bad thing, indeed. And at the federal level, we are a democracy of states, not people. That is what a republic *is.* The people tell their states how to vote; it is the states who actually vote for the President.

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Democracy without competence or virtue is a bad thing, indeed. And at the federal level, we are a democracy of states, not people. That is what a republic *is.* The people tell their states how to vote; it is the states who actually vote for the President. The only normal part of the federal government that is a democracy of states is the U.S. Senate. There is one special action that the U.S. House of Representatives can do (see below) that may be considered also a democracy of states, but that is all. The people never tell their states how to vote for the President; the states (except as noted below) do not vote for the President; you are incorrect. The people tell their electors, not their states, how to vote; it is the electors, not the states (except as noted below), who actually vote for the President. The only exception you can claim, and even there you'd be wrong (because the people have no say in that instance; they don't tell their states how to vote in that instance) is when there is no absolute electoral majority and the House of Representatives chooses the President

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And at the federal level, we are a democracy of states, not people. That is what a republic *is.* The people tell their states how to vote; it is the states who actually vote for the President. People vote for other people who in turn will vote for still other people for President. That is true even where states use winner-take-all for their voting. (Proportional allocation of electoral votes is an overdue reform.) Useful reading: Voters in each state actually cast a vote for a block of electors who are pledged to vote for a particular candidate. <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/election/electoral.html> No, I'm not considering you that limited. Read on: How the Electoral College Works <http://www.fec.gov/pages/ecworks.htm> And what's a republic? Additional useful reading (one of a number of sites that

feature this material): <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Classic%20Definition%20of%20...>
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Definition%20of%20Republic>
<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/federal%20republic> Dave Simpson

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Democracy without competence or virtue is a bad thing, indeed. I'll second that. There are plenty of conservative grouchers out there (who probably hate demagoguery by the Dems and exploiting their gullible, ill-minded voters) who would third that motion in some detail. Many of them and their complaints no doubt are driven by ideology and politics, but liberal critics are fallacious to confuse or combine their gripes (such as found below) with the more common cynicism toward what changes the USA has undergone that indeed are not the same as improvements. (And to say change is not the same as improvement is not necessarily conservative, and obviously isn't reactionary.) NOTE: Liberal readers will find the following range from annoying to contemptible to outrageous, so there's a liberal piece at the bottom just as a token(!) of accomodation. ... You will hear many people say that we are a democracy. Such was NOT the original intention. In a democracy, the will of the majority is law. Anything is allowed, provided that the majority approves. There are no checks and balances, and the rights of the individual are not protected. Allow me two quotations on the subject: James Madison, Federalist Paper 10: Hence it is that such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths. U.S. Army Training Manual TM2000-05, 1928 Democracy, n. A government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any form of direct expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic - negating property rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice, and impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy. <http://www.wealth4freedom.com/Republic.html> PURE DEMOCRACY IS EVIL <http://www.swcp.com/~nmrep/demevil1.htm> Democracy's Road to Tyranny <http://www.libertyhaven.com/politicsandcurrentevents/democracy/roadty...> The United States and Regressive Governmental Evolution Republic to Democracy <http://www.indixie.com/indixie/Articles/Republic.htm> A Republic, Not a Democracy <http://www.house.gov/paul/tst/tst2000/tst121200.htm> A Republic, If You Can Keep It http://www.thenewamerican.com/tna/2000/11-06-2000/vo16no23_republic.htm Democracy Versus Republic (and the guy's pen name includes grouch !) <http://www.grouchyoldcripple.com/archives/000217.html> Democracy vs. Republic <http://www.mindcontrolforums.com/dvsr.htm> What is the difference between a Democracy and a Republic? <http://www.tmra2.org/images/democracyvsrepublic.pdf> The Difference between a Republic and a Democracy <http://www.freerepublic.com/forum/a3a333b803442.htm> The Lie....America is a democracy and we should cast off our old, outdated constitutional restraints and embrace more modern principles. The Truth... <http://www.mcsm.org/truth1.html> On a lighter (no pun intended, libs! see below) note: Dubya Meets the Founding Fathers <http://www.interventionmag.com/cms/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&f...> Dave Simpson
