

Democracy's Tragedies

The Northwest has been ripped apart for 30 years as forestry laws are reversed again and again. Hasty logging in times of weak regulation lays waste to resources. Sudden limits on logging bankrupt the workers and small businesses. A **political pendulum** swings; it cuts down forests and species, families and towns.

Old ways of adding up votes fail to represent large groups in many places. In North Carolina, there were enough black voters to fill up two election districts. But they were a 25% minority spread over eight districts. So they won no voice in Congress. For over 100 years they were invisible as voters.

More stories inside . . .

What's Wrong?

Our flawed voting rules come from a failure to see there are different jobs for voting; and these require different types of voting.

We all know how to decide the simplest sort of issue: A question with only two answers is voted 'yes' or 'no'. For such an issue, the yes and no votes are enough.

But as soon as three candidates run for one office, the situation becomes more complicated. Then a yes-no vote is no longer suitable.

double vote

Benefits to Voters and Reps

Elections

- Give voters **real choices** of candidates who can win, by electing **fair shares** of reps from all major groups.
- This supports a wide range of candidates, debate of issues and **turnout of voters**.
- Reduce wasted votes** and thus end weak mandates. Cut the influence of **spoilers** and gerrymanders.
- Reduce **attack ads** and social schisms. Cut the payoffs from private **campaign funding**.

Legislation

- Give fair representation to all major groups, so the council will enact laws with **real majorities**.
- Elect a **central chair** with wide appeal; she'll be a swing vote between the reps from interest groups.
- Cut the chances for agenda **scams**. Speed-rank all options at once to detach poison pills and free riders.
- Give all reps equal **funds** for projects and agencies. And make each rep's spending visible to the voters.

Online pages list more benefits of each rule. The workshop shows how they meet those goals.

half vote

half vote

single vote