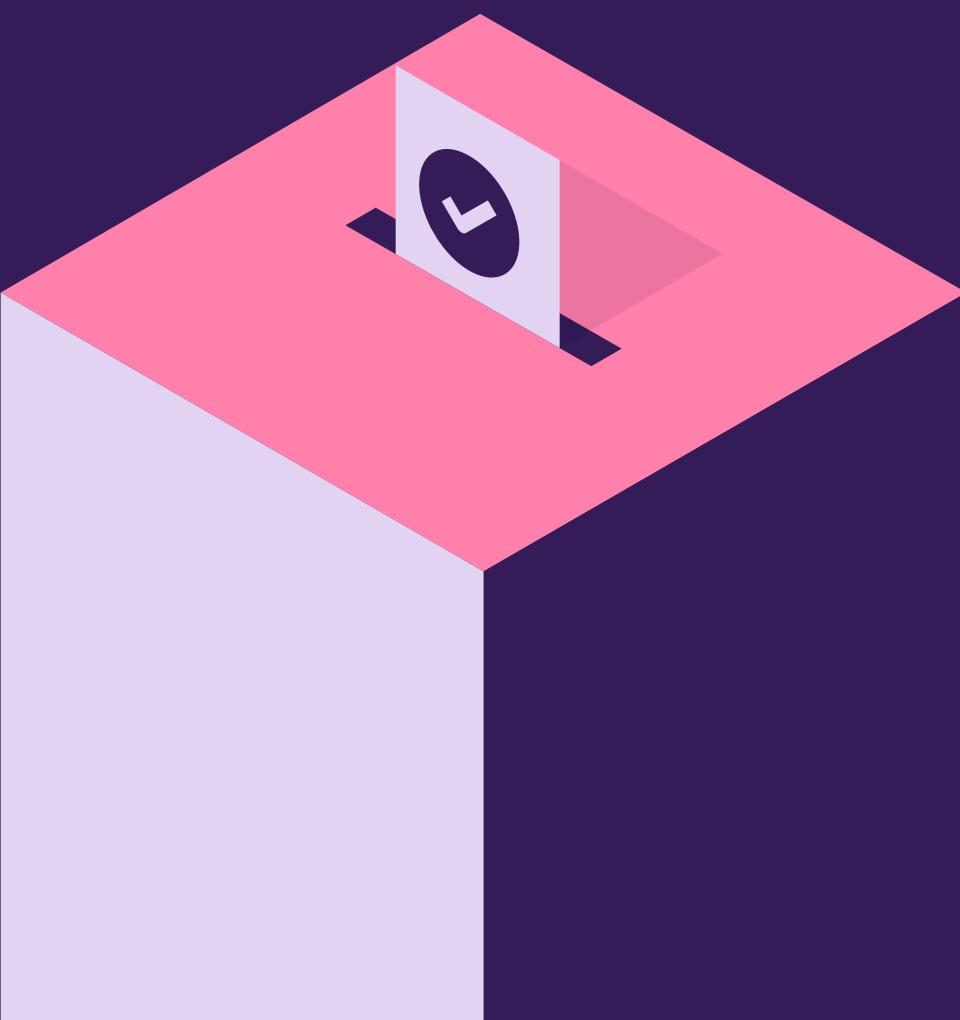


VOTING 101: How We Choose Who's In Charge



INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Grab your phone.

Step 2: Open your browser and go to kahoot.it

Step 3: In a minute, we're going to give you a code to join the game. Enter the 6-digit code in the field where it says "Game PIN." Or you can use your phone to scan the QR code you see on the screen.

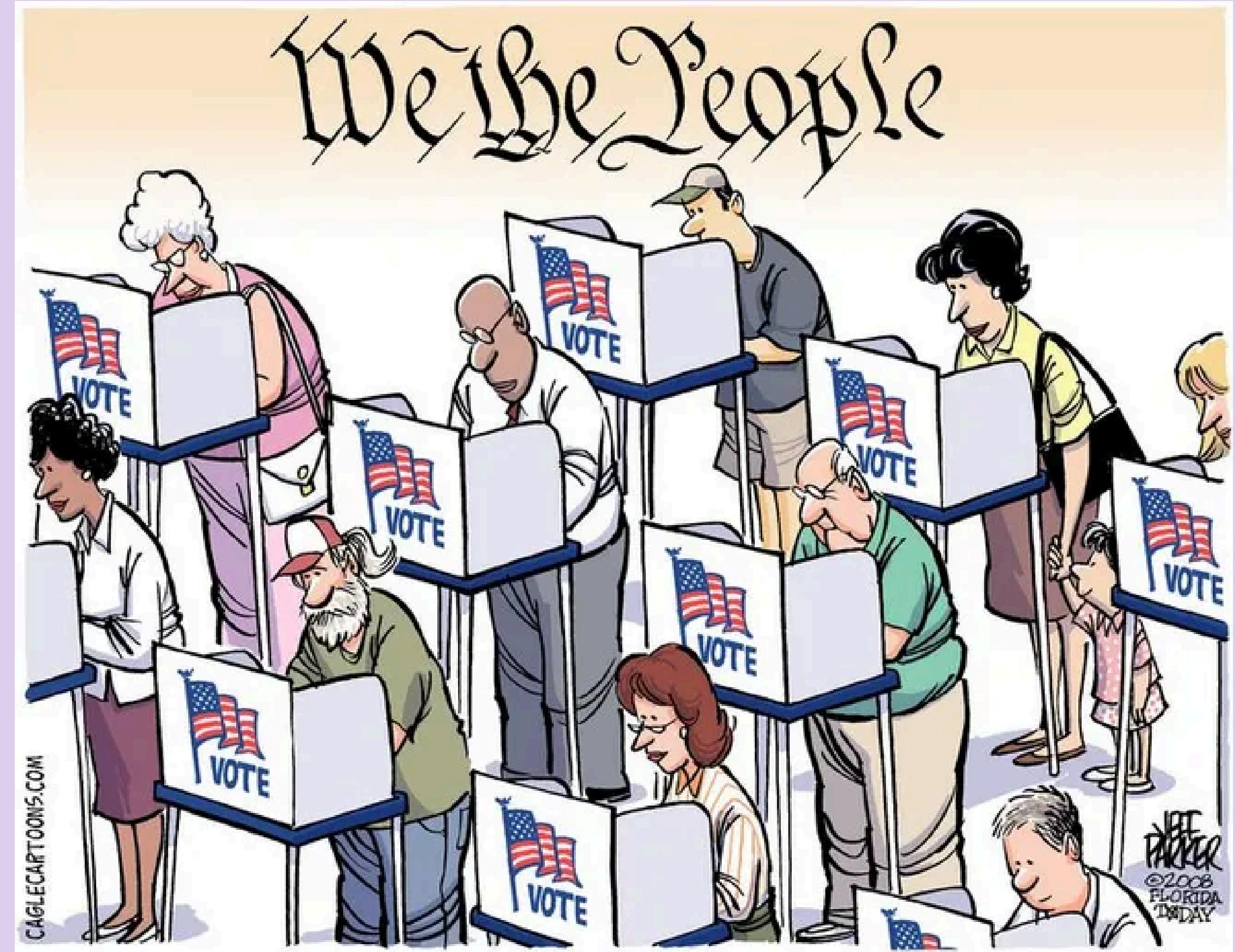
Step 4: Enter a nickname and click "Ok, go!"





VOTING

HOW DO WE ENFRANCHISE ALL VOTERS?





[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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Video player configuration error



TYPES OF VOTING

Winner Takes All

- Majority or plurality - the candidate(s) with the most votes wins

Ranked Choice Voting

- Voters rank candidates in order of their preference, all votes count

Proportional Voting/Representation

- Multiple representatives are elected in proportion to the # of people who voted for them/their party

WINNER TAKES ALL (MAJORITY OR PLURALITY)

- The candidate with the **most votes** wins in **single member** elections (example - the US Senate)
- The candidates with the **highest plurality** of votes win in **multiple member** elections (example - a city council election)



WINNER ✓

Jon Ossoff, Democrat, wins the Senate runoff election in Georgia.

Race called by The Associated Press.

Updated Jan. 15, 2021

>95% REPORTED

Candidate	Party	Votes	Pct.
 Jon Ossoff ✓	Democrat	2,269,738	50.6%
 David Perdue*	Republican	2,214,506	49.4
Total reported		4,484,244	

* Incumbent

WINNER TAKES ALL

(MAJORITY)

- Single member districts for the US House of Representatives have been used since a **1967 law** mandated this type of vote

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 (VOTE FOR 1)**Precincts Reported: 281 of 281**[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Don Davis	DEM	186,341	49.52%
Laurie Buckhout	REP	180,034	47.84%
Tom Bailey	LIB	9,949	2.64%

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 02 (VOTE FOR 1)**Precincts Reported: 155 of 155**[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Deborah K. Ross	DEM	268,662	66.25%
Alan D. Swain	REP	128,164	31.61%
Michael Dublin	GRE	8,691	2.14%

WINNER TAKES ALL

(PLURALITY)

- The candidates with the highest plurality of votes win in **multiple member** races/districts
- For example a city council election or a school board race

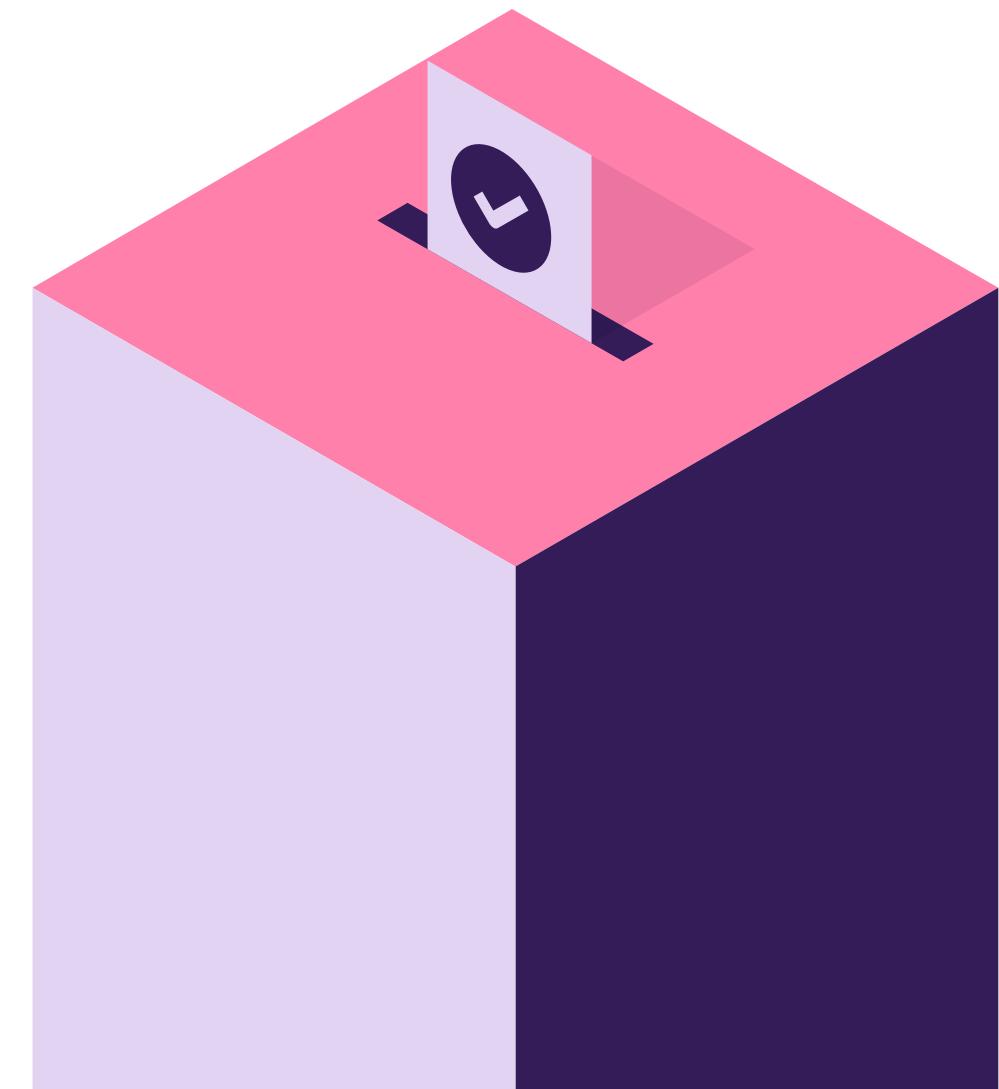
TOWN OF LEWISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL (VOTE FOR 6)
Precincts Reported: 9 of 9

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
Stacy Howard	REP	1,499	10.14%
Suzanne Newsome	DEM	1,475	9.98%
Geraldine (Gerry) Gallagher	DEM	1,404	9.50%
Brady Allen	REP	1,321	8.94%
Mack Wilder	DEM	1,251	8.46%
Fred W. Franklin	REP	1,249	8.45%
James Lewis	DEM	1,191	8.06%
Thomas (Tom) Lawson	REP	1,186	8.02%
Tripp Gallup	REP	1,150	7.78%
William (Monte) Long	UNA	1,142	7.73%
AC Hengler	REP	1,107	7.49%
Jon Thomas	UNA	775	5.24%

ADVANTAGES OF WINNER TAKES ALL

- Familiar to Most Voters
- Counting is Efficient



DISADVANTAGES OF WINNER TAKES ALL

- **Uniquely prone to gerrymandering**
 - **Republicans easily control 44% of the US House seats and Democrats control 40% of the seats due to gerrymandering**
- **Uncompetitive districts – especially for the House of Representative and state legislative elections**

DISADVANTAGES OF WINNER TAKES ALL

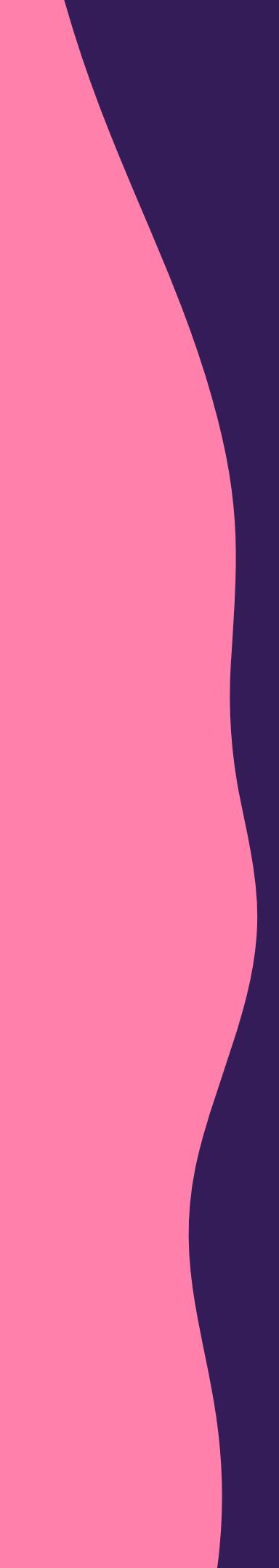
- **Exaggerates the power of the “winner” majority and underrepresents the minority**
 - **In Massachusetts, Republicans represent approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the vote and none of the elected 5 seats in the House**
 - **In Oklahoma, Democrats represent approximately 26.6% of the voters and none of the elected 5 seats in the US House**
 -

DISADVANTAGES OF WINNER TAKES ALL

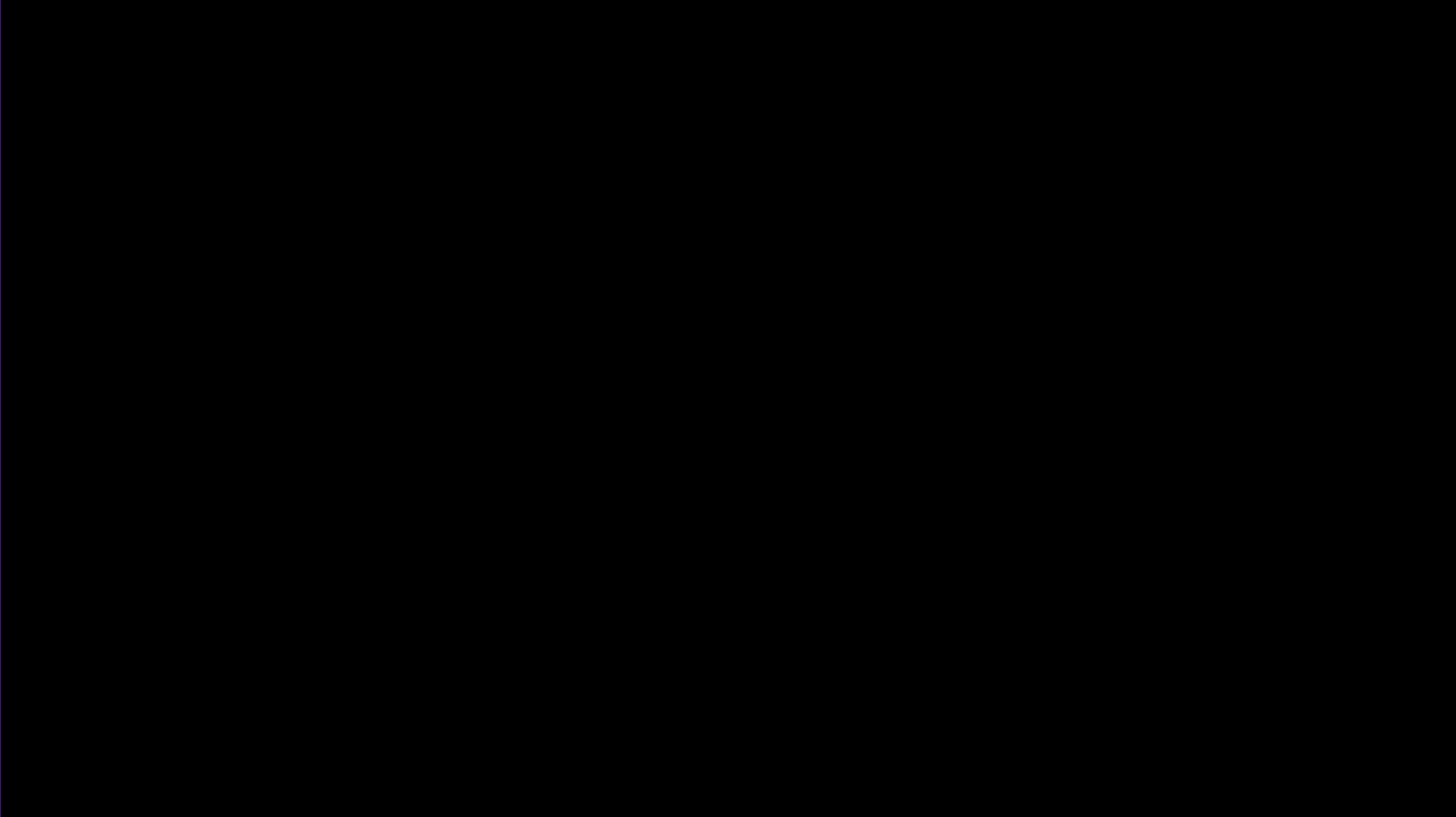
- Racial minorities are underrepresented
- Ability of voters to push back is diminished
- The system becomes vulnerable to authoritarianism

DISADVANTAGES OF WINNER TAKES ALL

- Demonizing the opposition is one proven method to win the election = polarization and extremism
- More expensive - need primaries, sometimes a run off

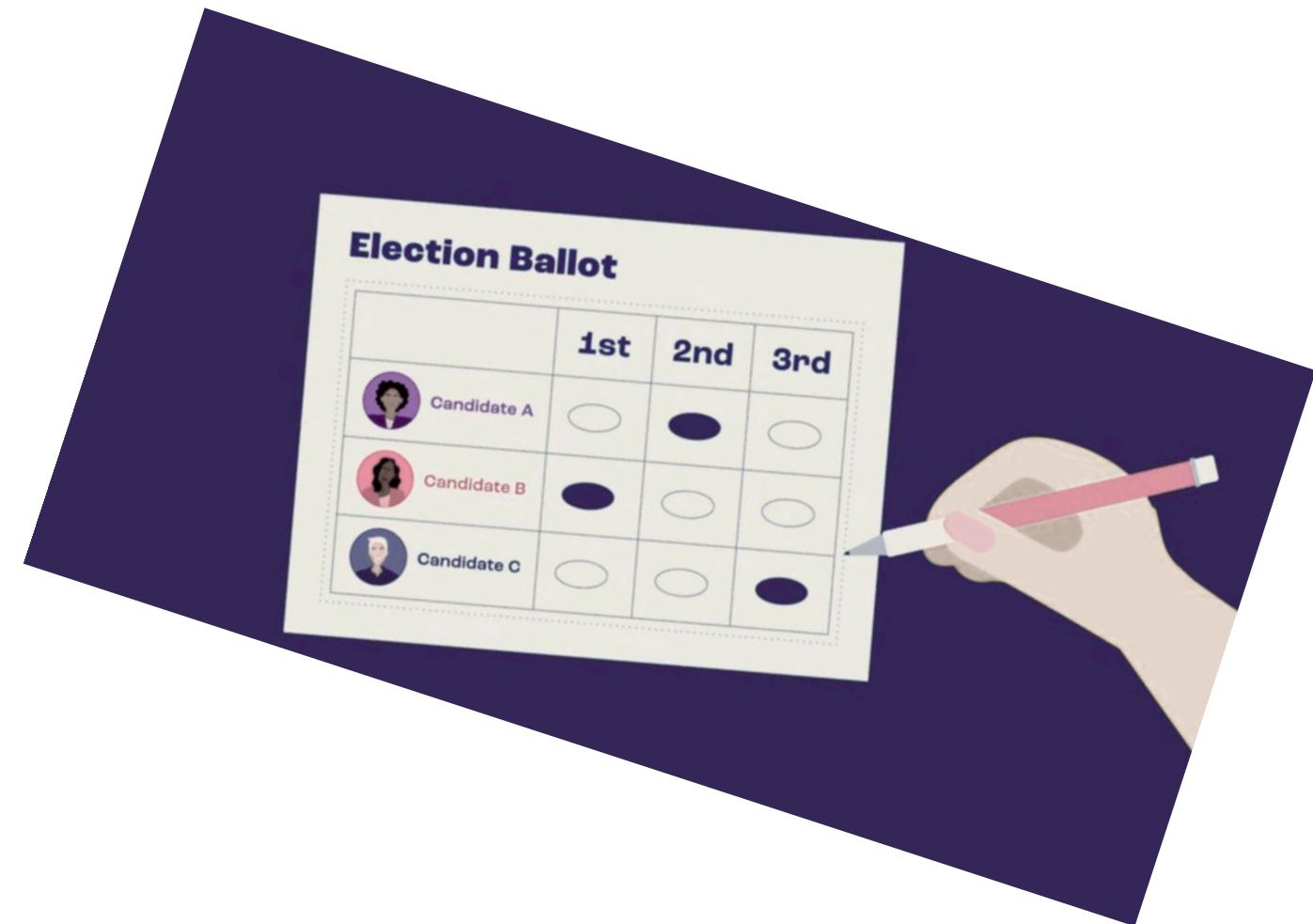


LET'S VOTE:
WINNER TAKE ALL
POLL



RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- **Voters rank candidates in order of preference**
- **Voters vote for all candidates on the ballot**



ADVANTAGES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- Each voter's ballot counts so it tends to increase participation
- Discourages negative campaigns
- Might be less expensive. Primaries are still needed but no run-offs

ADVANTAGES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- Easier for women and minorities to enter elections
- No wasted votes -- all ballots included in the final vote
- More reflective of the majority votes

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Pros

- Promotes majority support
- Avoid spoiler effect
- Saves money
- Lessens strategic voting

Cons

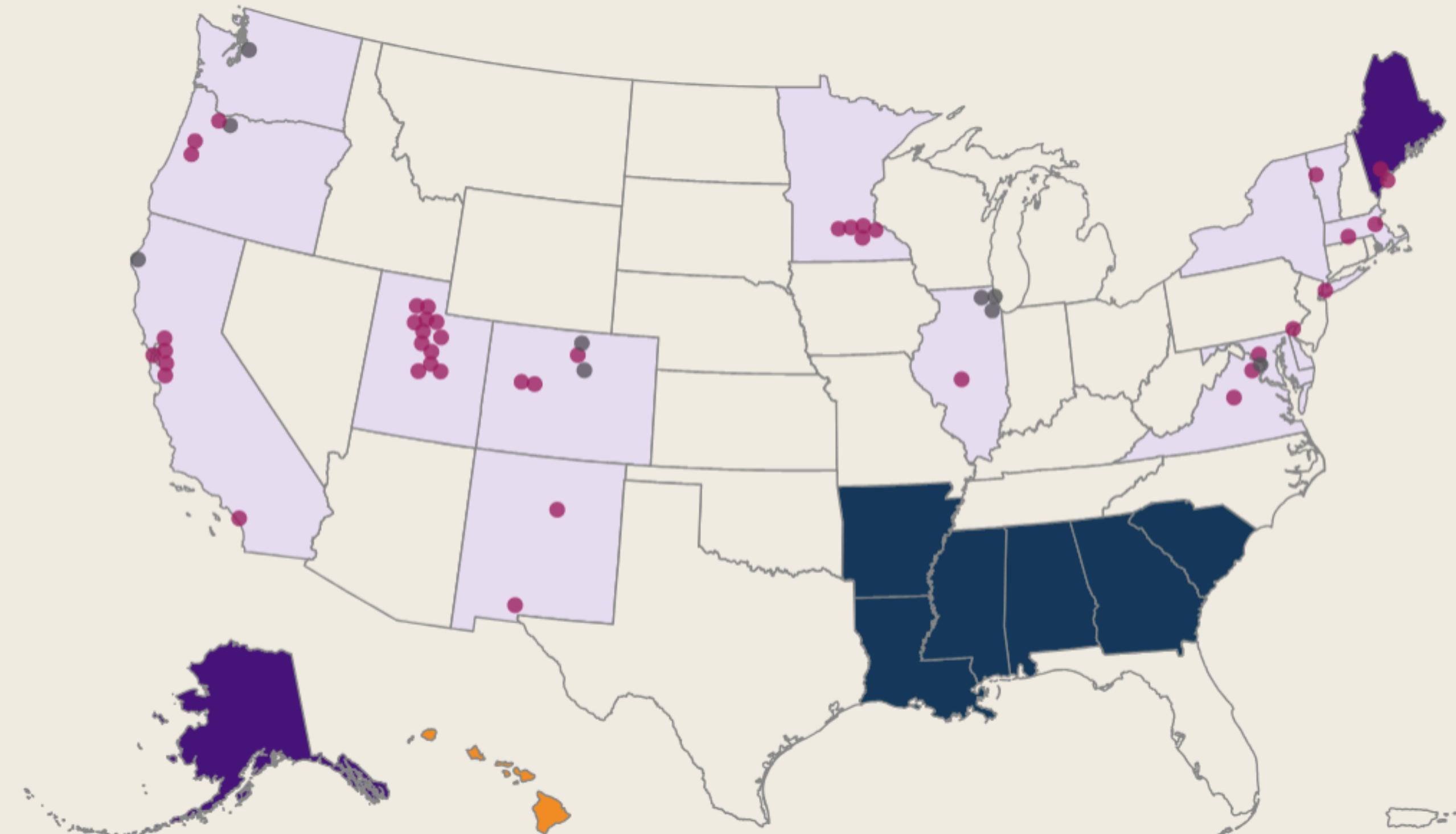
- Lesser known system
- Ballots & counting of ballots cost more
- Newer

DISADVANTAGES OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- **Unfamiliar** to those voters who have not used it - will need to educate the voters
- Counting votes will take **more effort** and, maybe, **more money**
- Could possibly **fail to get a majority vote**

Cities and counties: ● In use ● Upcoming use

States: ■ Used statewide ■ Local elections in some jurisdictions ■ Military and overseas voters
■ Special elections



VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF THEIR PREFERENCE

 Add votes to Cricketa.csp

Candidate	Preference
Mike Atherton	4
Mark Ramprakash	7
Mark Butcher	8
Nasser Hussain	1
Graeme Hick	
Alec Stewart	5
Nick Knight	10
Chris Reed	12
Dominic Cork	9
Andy Flintoff	11
Andrew Caddick	3
Darren Gough	2
Alan Mullally	14
Ed Giddins	13
Phil Tufnell	6

Vote Number 1

[Help](#)

[Add - Next](#)

[Don't add - Finish](#)

**Official Ballot
Municipal Elections**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS	Candidates for City Council District One (Three to be elected.)	<i>Only one vote per candidate</i>
Mark Your Choices by Filling in the Numbered Boxes Only	Douglas Campbell Dem.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
Fill in the number one 1 box next to your first choice; fill in the number two 2 box next to your second choice; fill in the number three 3 box next to your third choice, and so on. You may fill in as many choices as you please. Fill in no more than one box per candidate. Fill in no more than one box per column.	Martha Dains Rep.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	Terry Graybeal Reform	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	Robert Gomez Dem.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	Cynthia Daniels Indep.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	Robert Higgins Rep.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	<i>Write In</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	<i>Write In</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9
	<i>Write In</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9

Count the votes!

Each ballot counts for its highest ranked continuing candidate.
If all seats are filled, you are done.

Are any candidates above the threshold?

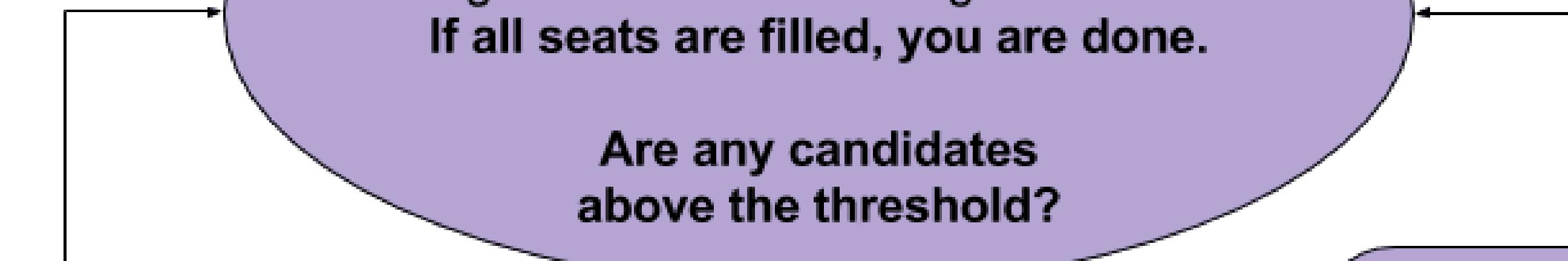
They win election

Reweight their votes and continue

Yes

No

Eliminate the last-place candidate and continue



RANKED CHOICE ALLOWS FOR AN INSTANT RUN-OFF

Sample Multi-Winner RCV Election					
Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Armando Perez Democrat	27.2% 2,500 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes
Cathy Chan Democrat	19.0% 1,750 votes	20.1% 1,850 votes	21.2% 1,950 votes	34.8% 3,200 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes
Hannah Murphy Republican	14.1% 1,300 votes	14.3% 1,320 votes	20.7% 1,900 votes	22.3% 2,050 votes	27.2% 2,500 votes
Charles Lorenzo Republican	14.1% 1,300 votes	14.1% 1,300 votes	17.4% 1,600 votes	17.9% 1,650 votes	18.9% 1,740 votes
Brad M. Jackson Democrat	14.7% 1,350 votes	15.5% 1,430 votes	15.8% 1,450 votes	0.0% 0 votes	0.0% 0 votes
June Smith Republican	10.9% 1,000 votes	10.9% 1,000 votes	0.0% 0 votes	0.0% 0 votes	0.0% 0 votes

REMEMBER
THIS INFO
FOR THE
NEXT
EXAMPLE

ELECTION THRESHOLDS	
Percent for One Seat	Seats to Elect
$50\% + 1$	1 Seat
$33.3\% + 1$	2 Seats
$25\% + 1$	3 Seats
$20\% + 1$	4 Seats
$16.7\% + 1$	5 Seats

Sample Multi-Winner RCV Election

Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Armando Perez Democrat	27.2% 2,500 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes
Cathy Chan Democrat	19.0% 1,750 votes	20.1% 1,850 votes	21.2% 1,950 votes	34.8% 3,200 votes	25.0% 2,300 votes
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June Smith Republican	10.9% 1,000 votes	10.9% 1,000 votes	0.0% 0 votes	0.0% 0 votes	0.0% 0 votes

HOW TO RE-WEIGHT BALLOTS

IF ANY WINNING CANDIDATES EARNED MORE VOTES THAN THE THRESHOLD, THE SURPLUS VOTES ARE TRANSFERRED TO THOSE VOTERS' NEXT CHOICES. BEFORE COMPUTERIZED TABULATION, THE BALLOTS TO BE TRANSFERRED WERE **SELECTED RANDOMLY** FROM THE BATCH OF BALLOTS ORIGINALLY COUNTING FOR THE ELECTED CANDIDATE(S). Now, THE MOST COMMON METHOD IS **FRACTIONAL TRANSFER**. THIS WORKS BY ADDING A FRACTION OF EACH VOTE FOR THE ELECTED CANDIDATE TO THE TOTALS OF THE CANDIDATE RANKED NEXT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A CANDIDATE GETS 10% MORE VOTES THAN THE ELECTION THRESHOLD, EVERY ONE OF THEIR VOTERS WILL HAVE 10% OF THEIR VOTE COUNT FOR THEIR NEXT CHOICE. THAT WAY, VOTERS AREN'T PUNISHED FOR HONESTLY RANKING A VERY POPULAR CANDIDATE FIRST.

Election Ballot

	1st	2nd	3rd
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



LET'S TRY RANKED CHOICE VOTING



DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY 2028

YOUR VOICE

YOUR VOTE

PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- **Parties earn seats in proportion to the # of votes cast for them**
- **If a party wins 25% of the vote, it would win 25% of the legislative seats, used only in multi-member districts**

PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- **Multiple representatives are elected in proportion to the # of people who voted for them and/or their party**
- **Each district elects several representatives in proportion to votes cast for the party**

ADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- **Most common electoral system among the world's democracies**
- **More competitive elections**
- **More equal representation for all voters**

ADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

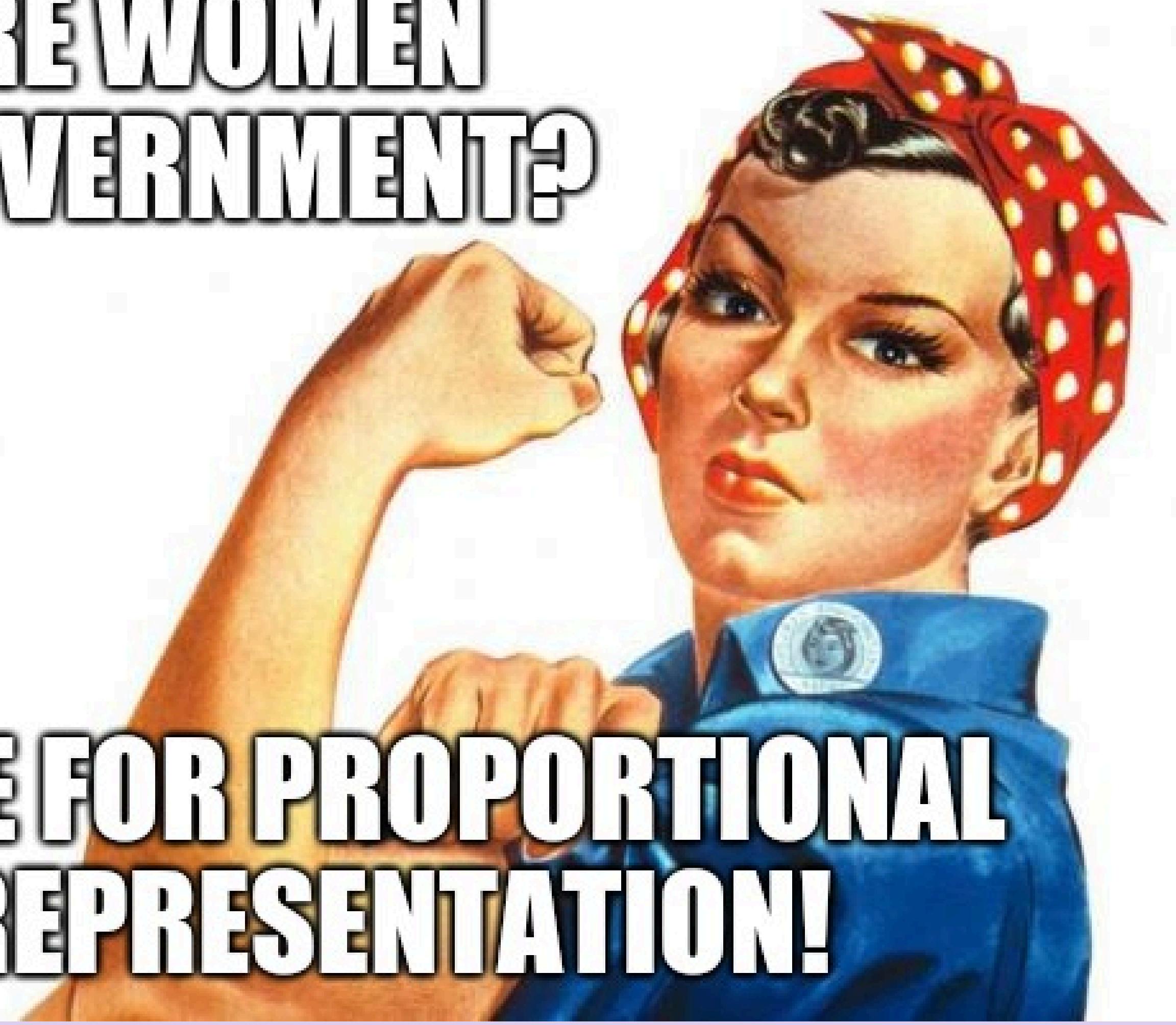
- Might involve less polarization / extremism
- Proportional and multi-member districts are difficult to gerrymander
- More likely to provide minority representation (with multi member districts of 5 or more)

ADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- **Women** tend to be elected more proportionally
- **Women are 50.4% of the population in the US - but only 28% in the US House in 2023**
- **Germany 35%, Denmark 40%, New Zealand 50% of their legislators are women**

MORE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT?

VOTE FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION!



ADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- **Tends to greater continuity and stability of power due to more power sharing of the parties and interest groups**

DISADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- Can give a platform to **extremist parties** (see next bullet point)
- **Small parties** can get a **disproportionate amount of power** (if they are part of a coalition)

DISADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- Coalition governments can lead to a **fragmented party system** and **difficult to maintain**
- **Unknown** in the US by most voters, **need education**

DISADVANTAGES OF PROPORTIONAL VOTING

- Can only use in **multi-candidate elections**, not for **single members / winners** (for example, not for **President, Senator, Governor**)

YOU KNOW, MOST FACES NEED
A LITTLE REMODELING

WINNER-
TAKES-ALL

PROPORTIONAL
REPRESENTATION

BUT THIS IS A TOTAL TEAR-DOWN.

PROPORTIONAL VOTING/REPRESENTATION

MULTIPLE
REPRESENTATIVES ARE
ELECTED IN
PROPORTION TO THE #
OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED
FOR THEM/THEIR PARTY

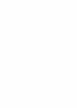
Official Ballot		
Election for the United States House of Representatives		
District One		
You Have 2 Votes		
District Vote		Party Vote
This vote decides who will be elected to the House of Representatives from this district. Vote by putting an "X" in the box immediately before the candidate you choose.		This vote decides the share of seats that each of the parties listed below will have in the House of Representatives. Vote by putting an "X" in the box immediately before the party you choose.
Vote for only one candidate.		Vote for only one party.
↓		
Vote Here		
	Fred Smith	Republican
	Damon Washington	Democrat
	Cheryl Houston	New Party
	Naomi Lintz	US Taxpayers
	John Henderson	Independent
	Write In	
	↓	
	Republican Party Kim, Dirks, Case, Packard, Deutsch	
	Democratic Party Mareo, Myers, Lee, Bork, Orr	
	The New Party Merkarski, Pine, Leforo, Fletcher, Devino	
	US Taxpayers Daves, Chevalier, Brown, Noyes, Parker	

**R = KIM, DIRKS, CASE, PACKARD,
DEUTSCH**

**D = MATTEO, MYERS, LEE, BOEK,
GORR**

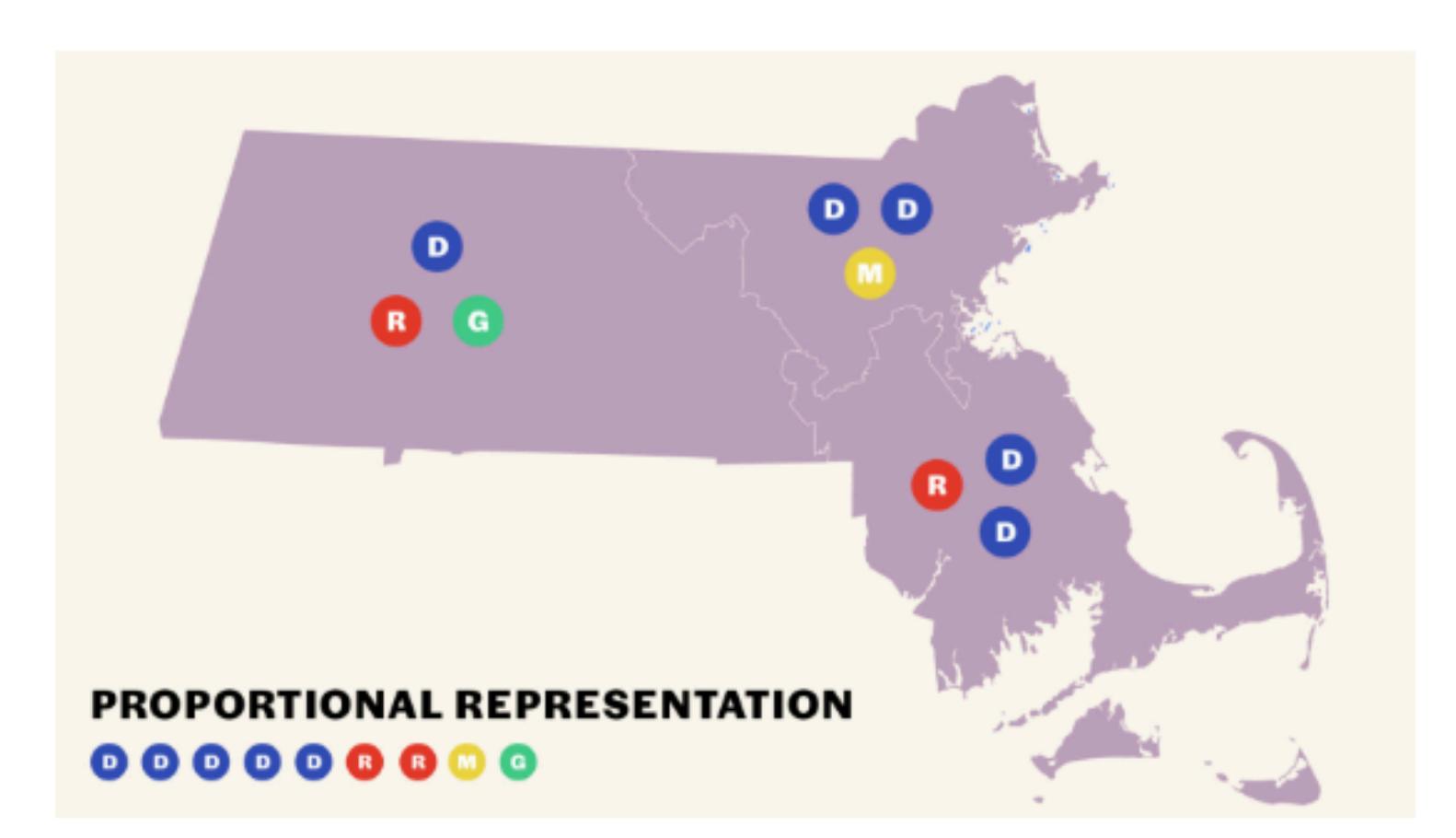
**NP = MORKURSKI, PINE, LEBURO,
FLETCHER, DEVINO**

**UST = DAVES, CHEVALIER, BROWN,
NOYES, PARKER**

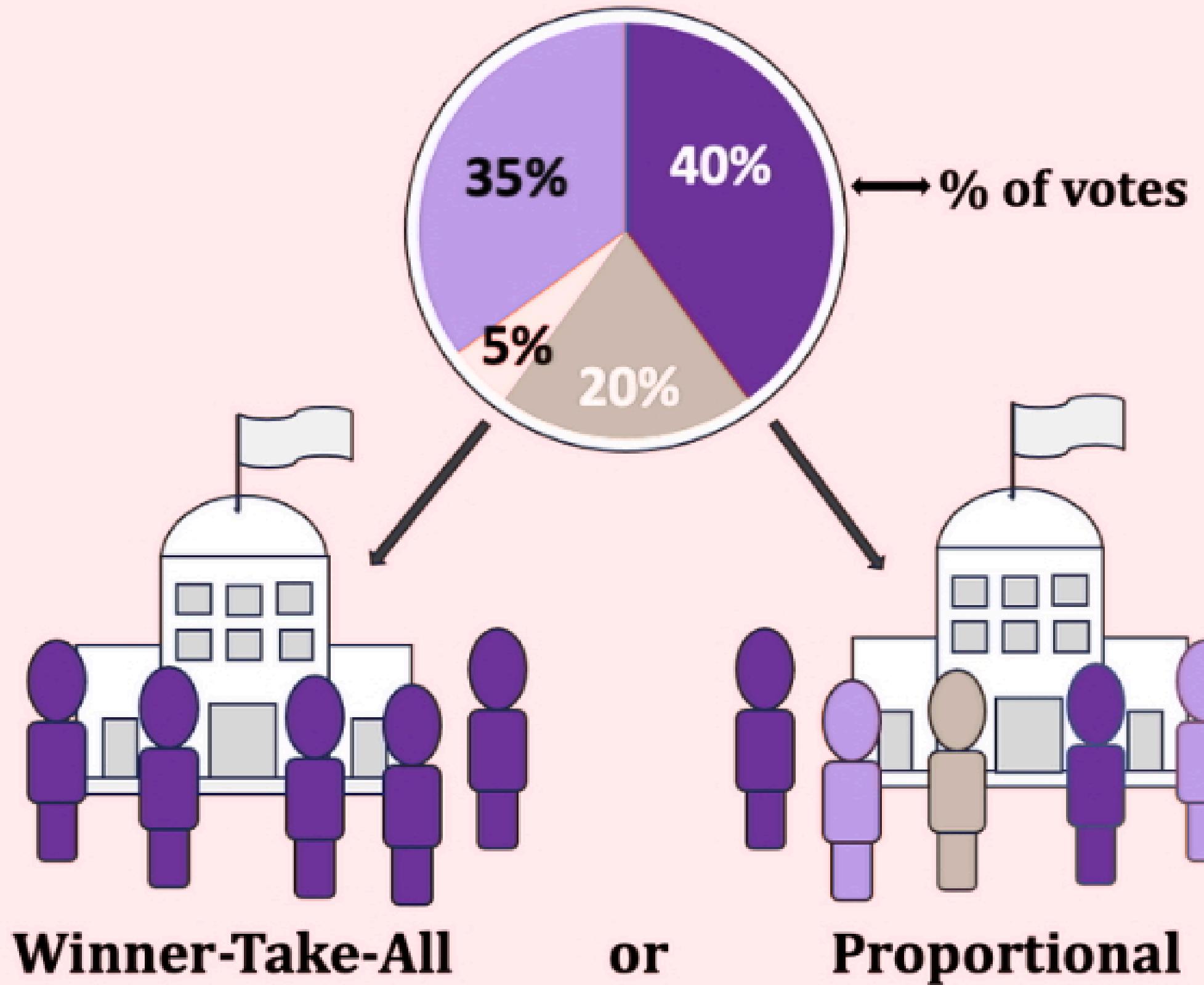
Vote Here	
	Republican Party Kim, Dirks, Case, Packard, Deutsch
	Democratic Party Matteo, Myers, Lee, Bok, Gorr
	The New Party Morkurski, Pine, Leburro, Fletcher, Devino
	US Taxpayers Daves, Chevalier, Brown, Noyes, Parker
	

PROPORTIONAL VOTING / REPRESENTATION

MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED IN PROPORTION TO THE # OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED FOR THEM AND/OR THEIR PARTY



Two election results for 5 council seats



NO EXCUSES



TODAY IS THE DAY!



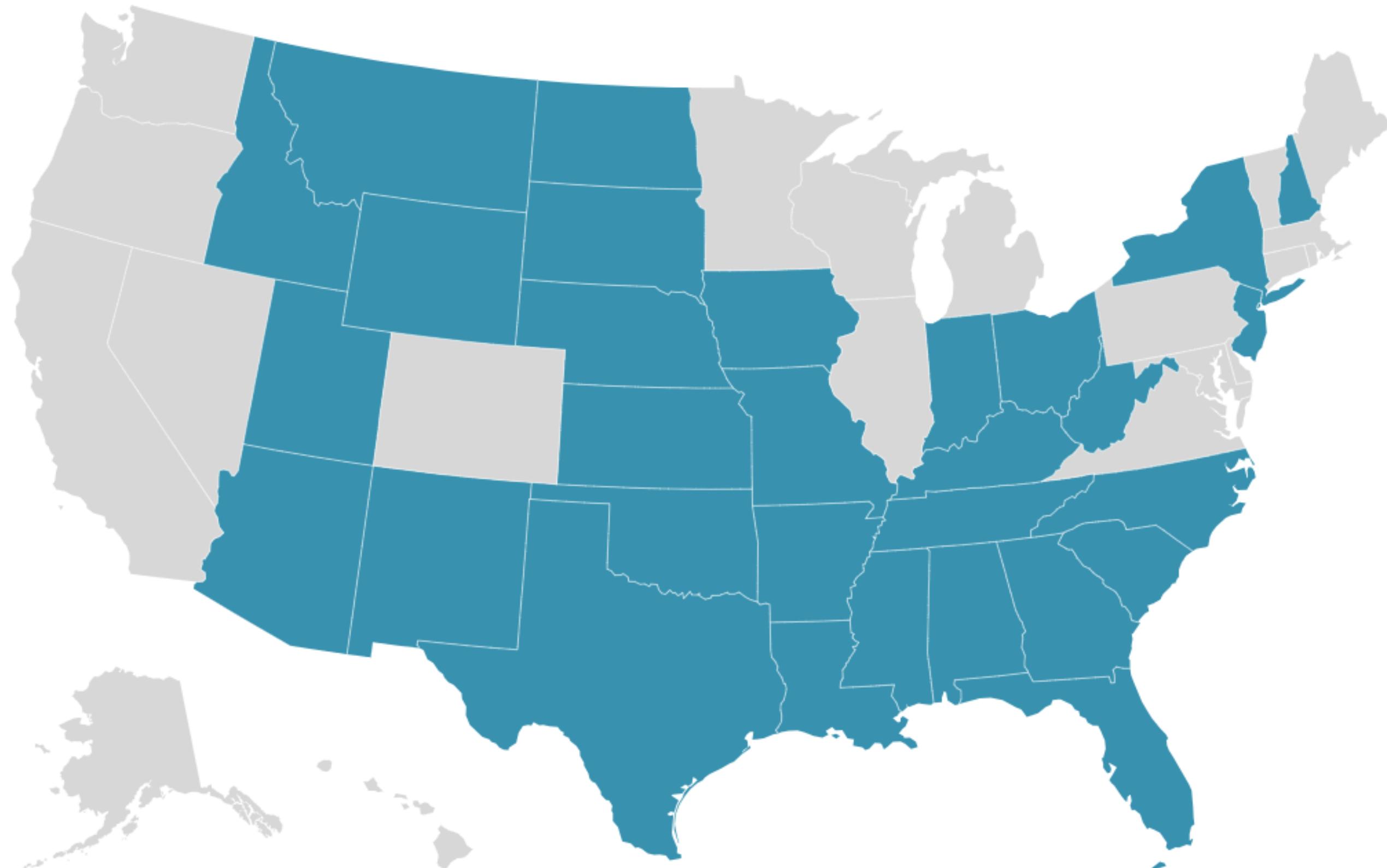
[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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States That Have Enacted Restrictive Voting Laws, 2021–24



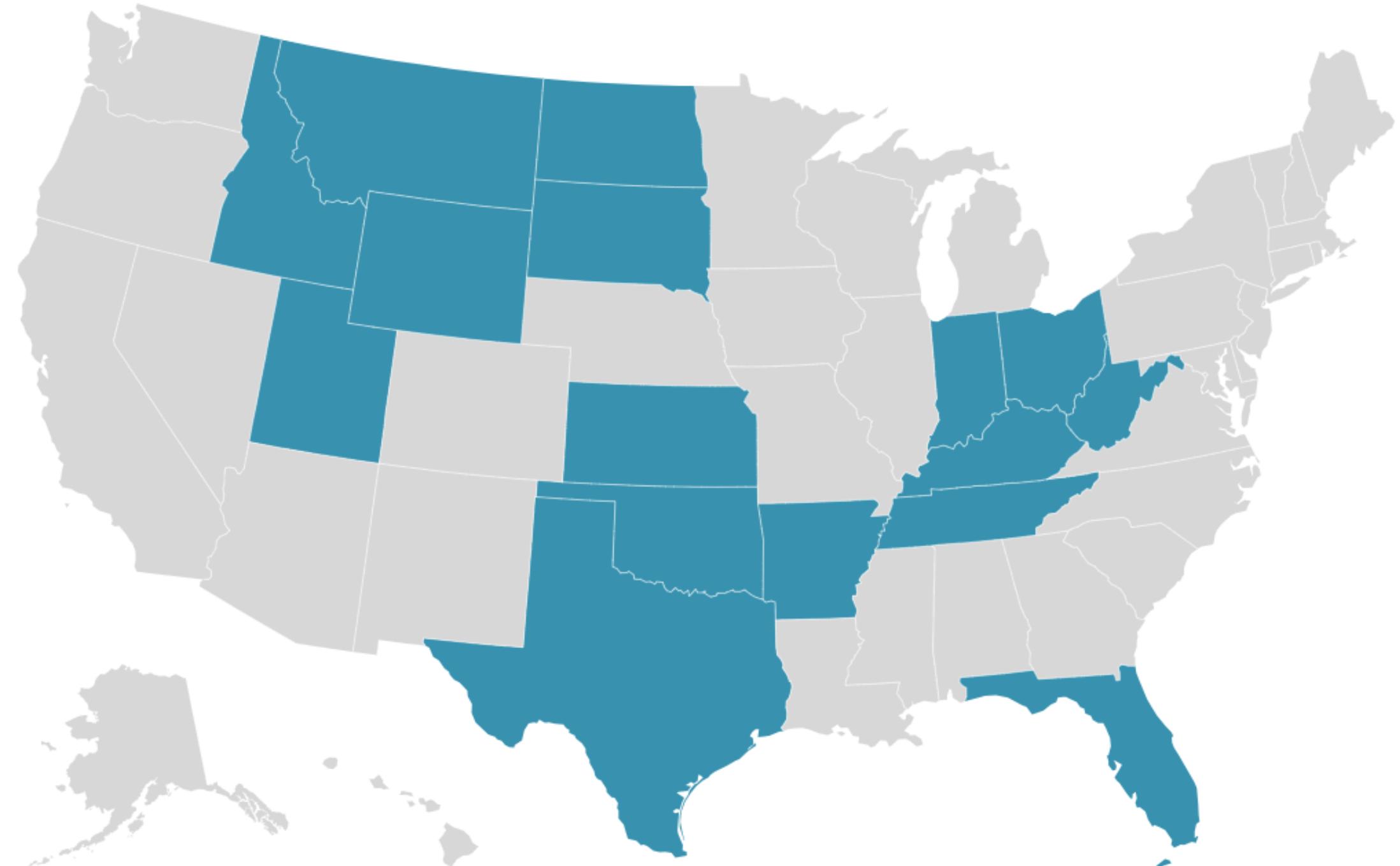
Source: Brennan Center analysis of publicly available data.

EXAMPLES OF VOTER SUPPRESSION

- Shorten the time window to apply for and to return mail-in/absentee ballot
- Stricter ID requirements
- Expand voter roll purges
- Limit Early Voting days, times, location
- Shorten days for election certification

- **IDAHO**
- **UTAH**
- **TEXAS**
- **OKLAHOMA**
- **MISSOURI**
- **TENNESSEE**
- **OHIO**
- **BOTH DAKOTAS**

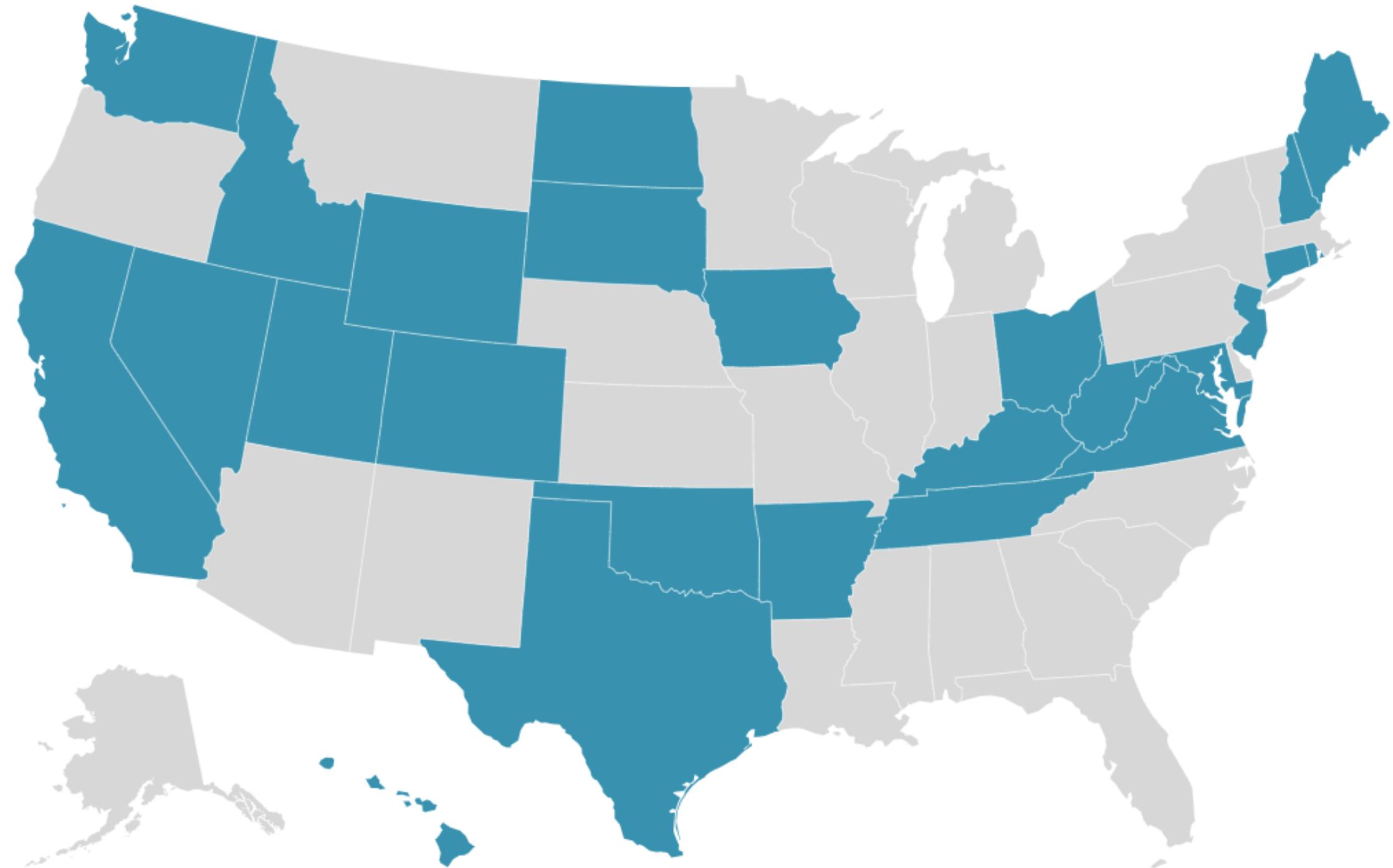
States That Enacted Restrictive Voting Laws in 2025



Source: Analysis of publicly available data by the Brennan Center and the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

- **IDAHO**
- **UTAH**
- **TEXAS**
- **OKLAHOMA**
- **MISSOURI**
- **TENNESSEE**
- **OHIO**
- **BOTH DAKOTAS**

States That Enacted Expansive Voting Laws in 2025



Source: Analysis of publicly available data by the Brennan Center and the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

PER THE BRENNAN CENTER:

2024 WAS THE SECOND MOST ACTIVE YEAR FOR RESTRICTIVE VOTING LEGISLATION IN AT LEAST A DECADE. IN THE FALL OF 2024, IN MORE THAN HALF THE STATES, MILLIONS OF VOTERS FACED HURDLES TO VOTE THAT THEY HAD NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED IN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

PER THE BRENNAN CENTER:

IN PAST YEARS, THE NUMBER OF EXPANSIVE LAWS ENACTED FAR SURPASSED THE NUMBER OF RESTRICTIVE ONES. SOME YEARS, THE RATIO OF EXPANSIVE TO RESTRICTIVE LAWS HAS BEEN 2 TO 1 OR GREATER. IN 2025, THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE, WITH THE NUMBER OF EXPANSIVE LAWS BEING VIRTUALLY ON PAR WITH THE NUMBER OF RESTRICTIVE ONES.

CURRENT VOTING RIGHTS CASE

LOUISIANA V CALLAIS, 2025

(RE-HEARING OF 2024 CASE)

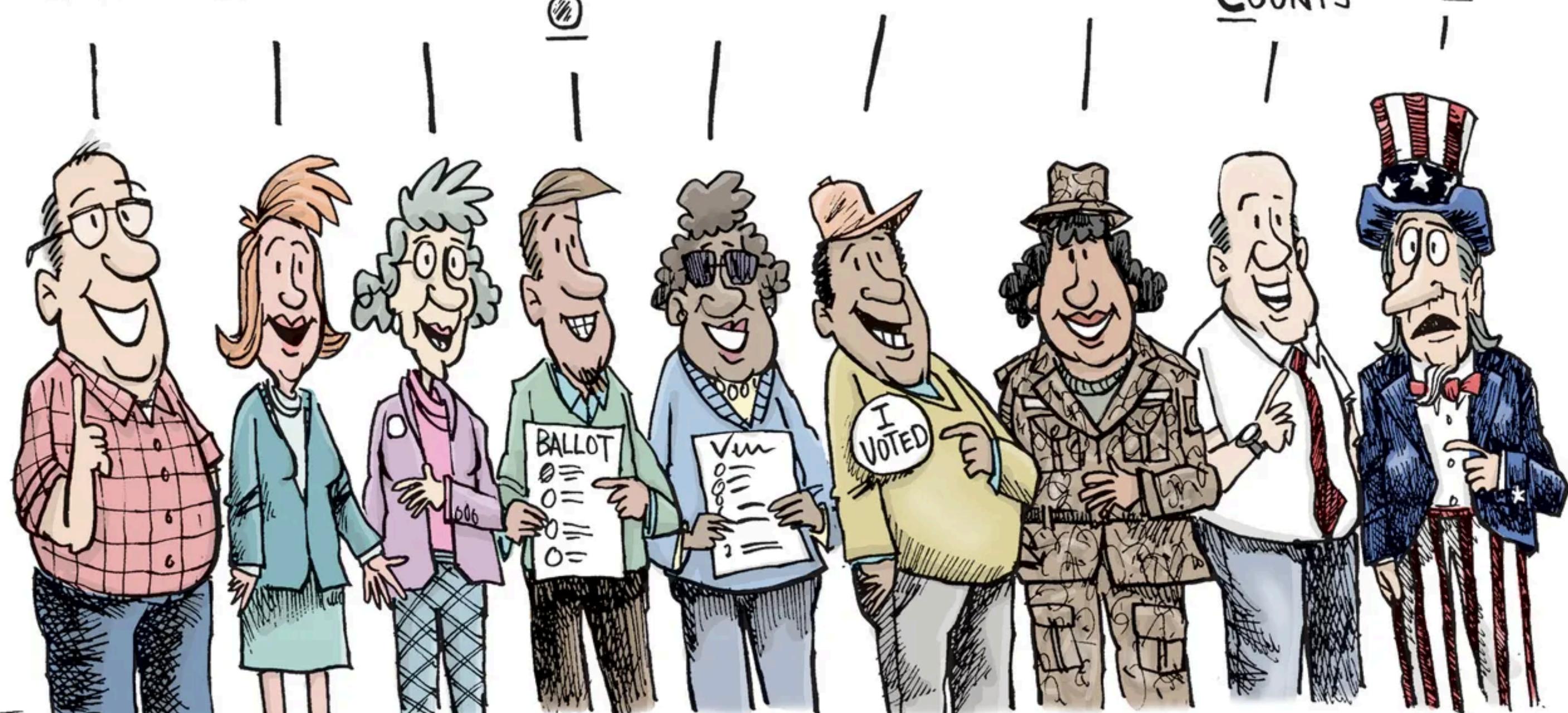
**RACIAL GERRYMANDERING WAS MADE ILLEGAL WITH THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 (SECTION 2)**

BUT ...

**US SUPREME COURT SEEKS PREPARED TO ALLOW RACIAL
GERRYMANDERING, FURTHER GUTTING THE VOTING
RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**

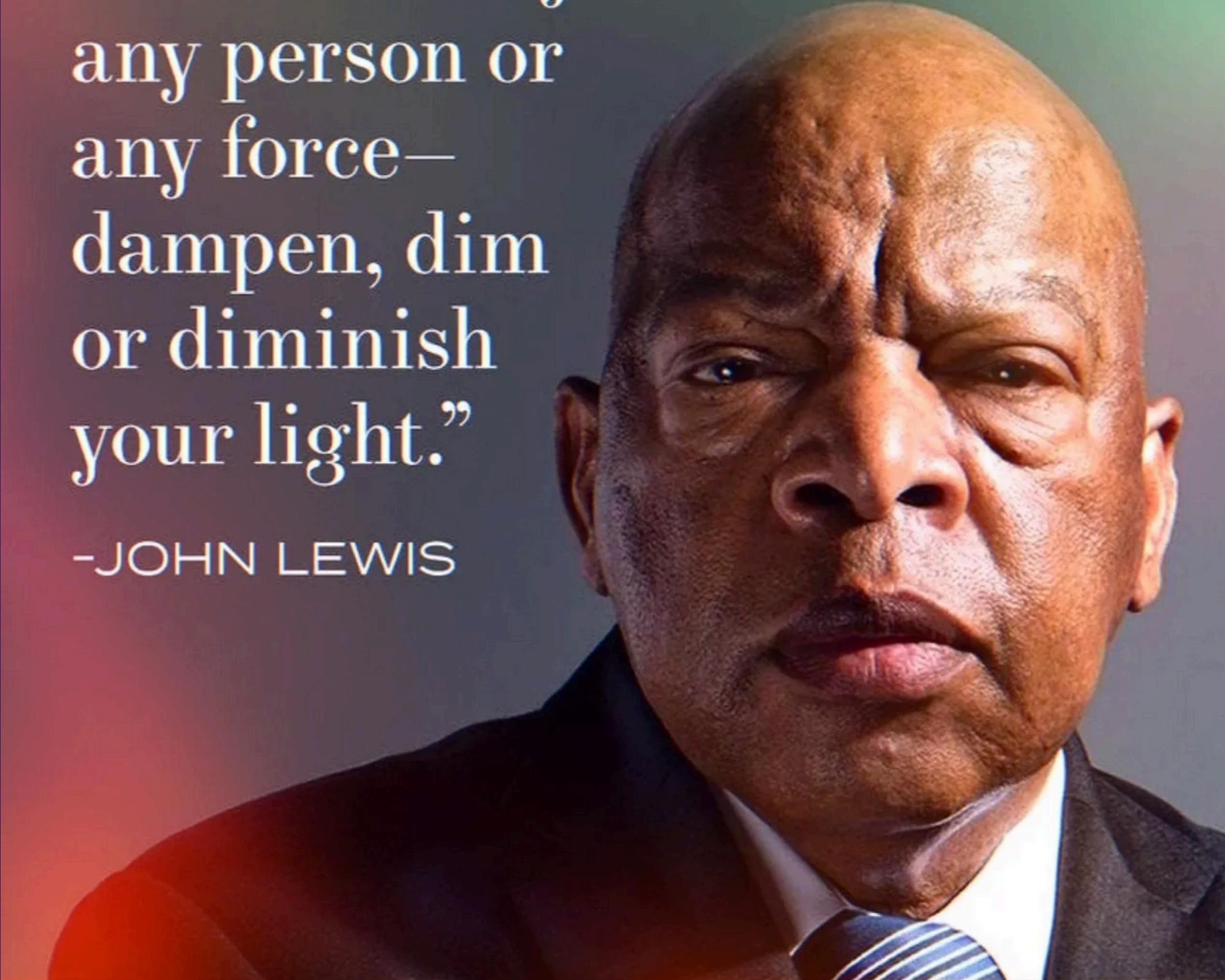
DEMOCRACY

IS FOR DROPPING IT OFF IS FOR VOTING EARLY IS FOR MAILING IT IN IS FOR FILLING IN THE O IS FOR CHECKING IT OVER IS FOR RECEIVING A STICKER IS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT IS FOR KNOWING YOUR VOTE COUNTS IS FOR IT'S UP TO YOU



“Never let anyone—
any person or
any force—
dampen, dim
or diminish
your light.”

-JOHN LEWIS

A close-up portrait of John Lewis, an African American man with a shaved head, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. The background is a warm, blurred gradient of orange, red, and green.

NAACP Los Angeles

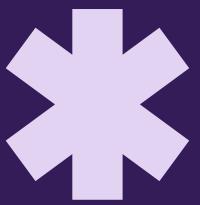
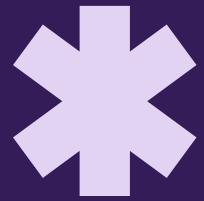


[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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Q&A Time!

Red
Wine & Blue

