

Conclusions

The best voting rules are fast, easy and fair.
They help any group from classroom to nation.
The results are well centered and widely popular.

Strengthen the votes supporting a
Chairperson, Council,
Policy, or Budget.



Actions

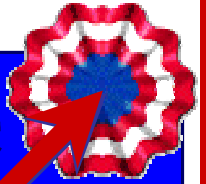
Learn more in this illustrated booklet.
Build support in your school, club or town with
FairVote, The Center for Voting and Democracy.

Help make your democracy:

-  **Organize** voters.
-  **Represent** everyone.
-  **Center** policies.
-  **Empower** everyone.

Please donate: Color \$3, B/W \$1
Reread Regift Resell Recycle
2009, Robert Loring

Accurate Democracy



**4 Great Tools
for Elections and Meetings**

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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 minority spread out 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 faulty voting rules come from a failure to see there are different jobs for voting; and these need 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.

1st,
double vote

3rd,
half vote

4th,
half vote

2nd,
single 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 so end weak mandates. Cut the influence of **spoilers** and gerrymanders.
- Reduce **attack ads** and anger among voters. 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.