One Person One Vote

Voter Power Index in the USA

The Electoral College

★Created in the early 1800's to ensure fair representation for rural areas

★Total of 538 Electoral Votes (435 Congress, 100 Senate, 3 from DC)

★Since the early 1900's Congressional Seats have been capped at 435 members.

★When the cap was first adopted, there were approximately 200,000 constituents in each Congressional District

★As the US population rose, congressional seats (electoral votes) have shifted from state to state.

★Today, Congressional districts are home to over **500,000** eligible voters

Post Election Themes: 2016

★Popular vote - Electoral Vote split

   ○ The loser of the popular vote has won the presidency **four** times in US History.

   ○ 2016 is the largest margin in US history by which this has happened (1+ million votes).

★Many have begun to question the disproportionate power of a voter in a low population state as compared to a high population state.

   ○ NY vs Wyoming

★Does your vote really count?

★We have developed a metric called Voter Power Index (VPI)

   ○ Our metric aims to correct the inaccuracies of the current Electoral College model.

   ○ VPI calculates the weight of 1 vote as based on the total number of eligible voters in each of the 438 Congressional Districts

The Future of American Democracy

★We hypothesize that minority groups have a significantly lower VPI than white voters.

- We would calculate the correlation between VPI and diversity within congressional districts

★The Rural vs Urban VPI

- More so than any other groups, Urban and Rural constituents vote as a block.

- The current EC model, as illustrated by VPI, heavily favors Rural voters.

★Disenfranchisement: American Territories

- Puerto Rico is home to more than 2,500,000 eligible voters (More than WY, VT, AK,ND, SD combined) and has no representation in Congress nor votes in Presidential Elections

★The purpose of our study is to enable the public to confront the reality of voting rights.