



OCTOBER 14, 2024

ADVENTURES IN DEMOCRATIC
DECISION MAKING

VOTING

AGGREGATION OF PREFERENCES, OR OPINIONS?

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DEMOCRACY'S BIG YEAR

2024: BIG YEAR FOR DEMOCRACY

More than 60 countries are heading to the polls this year.

In France, the left avoids a defeat to the far-right.

In India, Modi's party gets a narrow majority.

In the UK, Labour wins a historic majority.



Elections are happening all over the world.

Aurelien Morissard/ Pool via AP; Rajesh Jantilal/AFP via Getty Images; Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

[It's the biggest election year in modern history. Will democracy prevail?](#) NPR's Consider This Podcast. July 3, 2024

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In the US?...



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THE UK

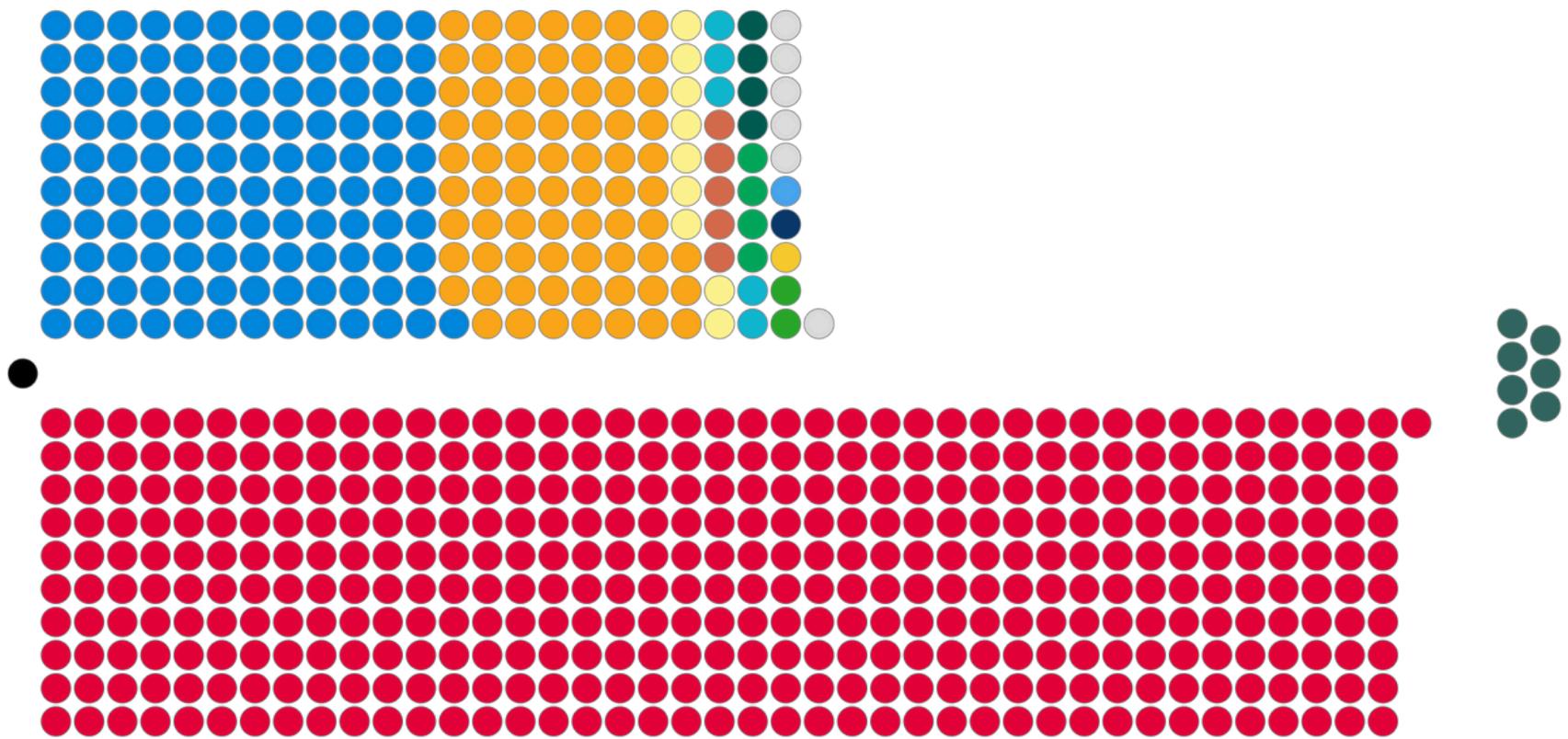
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Labour gets 411 out of 650 seats.

With 33.7% of the votes.

This is the lowest of any majority party on record.

The outcome is the least proportional in British history.



Is this odd? Is this *fair*?

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Two big ways of thinking of
voting.

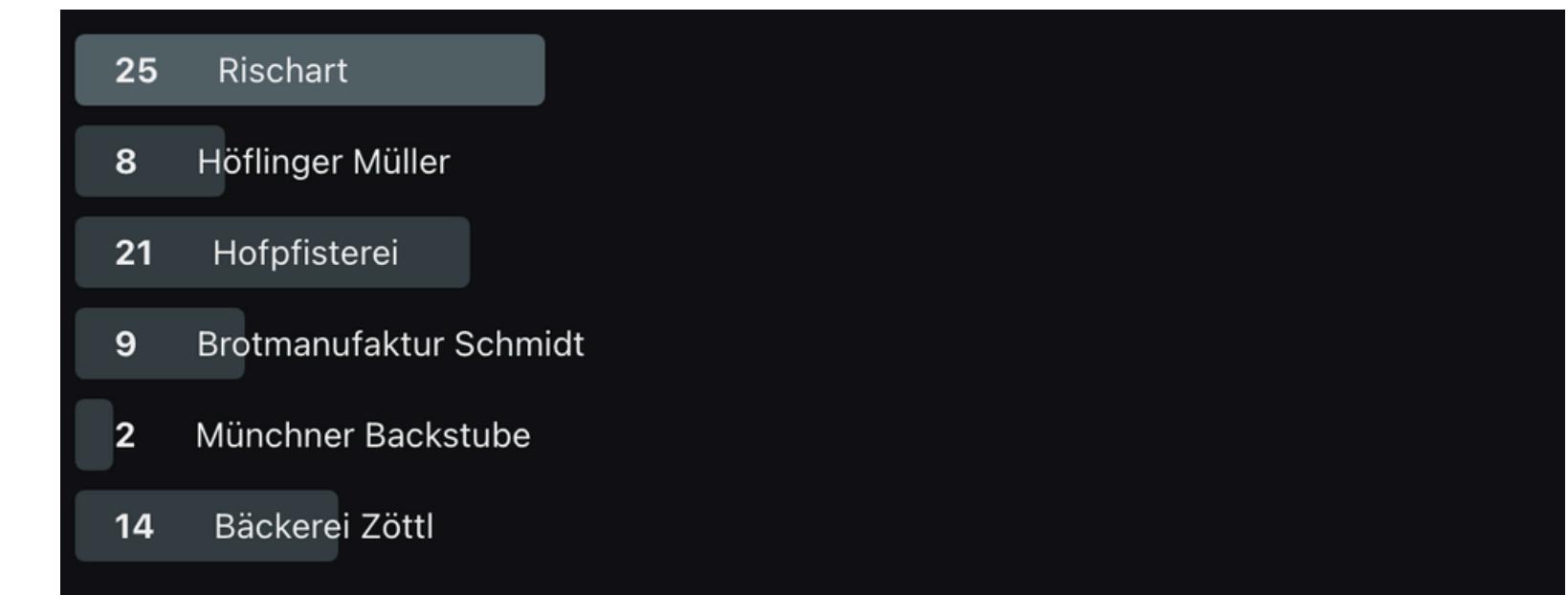
WHAT PEOPLE WANT

Which one is your favorite bakery?

Rischart
Hoflinger Muller
Hofpfisterei
Munchner Backstube
Schmidt
Zottl

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

Which one is your favorite bakery?



https://www.reddit.com/r/Munich/comments/1ct5324/which_one_is_your_favorite_bakery/

How we would decide on a bakery
to supply us for a party?

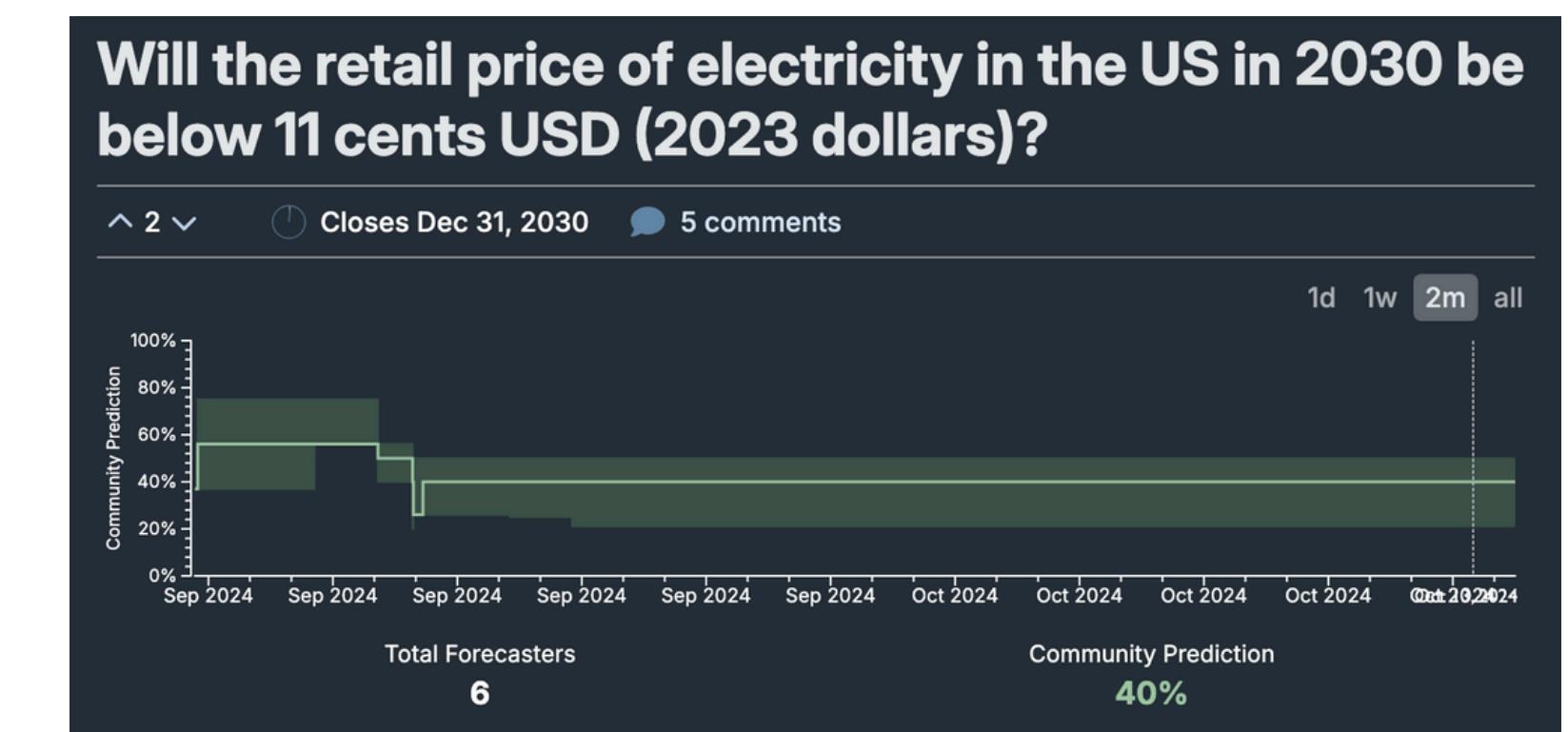
Compare this with the following type of question.

WHAT PEOPLE THINK

In the early 2020s, electric vehicles (EVs) have seen increases in market share, calling into question what factors may influence future trends in electric vehicle adoption. One possible factor is the effect of electricity prices. Electricity prices may not only influence EV adoption, but also be influenced by EV adoption if it creates a significant increase in electricity demand.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) tracks retail electricity prices in its chart Average retail price of electricity. According to its methodology, the EIA creates these estimates from a monthly survey of electric retailers.

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<https://www.metaculus.com/questions/27993/us-2030-electricity-below-11-cents-per-kwh/>

PREFERENTIAL VERSUS EPISTEMIC VOTING

PREFERENTIAL VOTING

In preferential voting, we want to figure out what people *want*.

The goal is to be *fair*.

If everyone wants x, there is no real sense in saying that the population is wrong...

EPISTEMIC VOTING

There is a truth out there.

People have varying opinions on it.

The goal is to be *accurate*.

Possible that everyone is wrong.