

# My Ballot Box - Creative Coding and Creative Computing Frameworks

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**796 words**

Voting is incredibly important in the world today because it is our primary means of expressing our opinion on the issues that affect us. By voting, we can express our support for candidates and policies that we believe will bring about positive change. Additionally, voting allows us to hold elected officials accountable for their actions and decisions. It is a powerful tool that can be used to influence the direction of our society and ensure that our voices are heard. Furthermore, voting can be used to ensure that artificial intelligence (AI) is developed and implemented in an ethical manner. By voting for candidates who prioritize ethical AI development, we can help ensure that AI technology is used responsibly and for the benefit of all people. I realised, that as young people, some of us forget to vote/ don't see the point in voting. In the code in which I have created, I incorporated multiple words/phrases that "fly" out of the ballot box e.g., "housing for all", "affordability" etc. Furthermore, these words and phrases which react when the mouse is pressed on the ballot box infer that these changes could be a possibility just due to entering your name. This is incredibly topical due to the cost of living and house prices increasing 'It is the British worker who is being held to ransom by this government and their ongoing suppression of workers' rights' - Mick Lynch speaking on the BBC. Mick Lynch who is the secretary-General of the National Union of Rail,

Maritime, Transport Workers and the leading voice for the “enough is enough” campaign talks often about the working-class person having their say. I believe that if you made your vote and a list of the objectives which may possibly be achieved appeared (before and after) this would give the nation hope for the future and create a sense of ownership of the individual. However, my code (due to my own biases) mainly shows words and phrases typically associated with the left-wing political parties. If the users’ political opinions differed to my own the phrases and words may differ entirely, but I also made sure to use general phrases and words which the majority would favour. If this worked as an AI model, the machine could be trained to pick up a person’s political stance by analysing the body language/ vocabulary/serotonin levels when shown different images linked to that political party. However, this could develop some issues as the machine would inevitably draw some stereotypes which may not always be accurate.

I started this code by using a simple “Pattern” framework. My original idea was to draw a jpeg and html from the “ballot image” from google. Then multiply the image and have the words falling vertical as if they were droplets of rain, the words would show quotes from previous prime minister Margaret Thatcher and the ballots would be a grey colour. However, my VS kept crashing when trying to multiply the image. I thought of doing a piece like this as I believe that political climate of today likens the most to 1979-1990 (the period Margaret Thatcher served as prime minister and leader of the conservative party.) During the mining closures of the 1980s Thatcher believed that the excessive costs of increasingly inefficient collieries had to end in order to grow the economy. She planned to close inefficient pits and depend more on imported coal, oil, gas and nuclear. This caused mass unemployment and areas in the north of England to increase in poverty, the cost of living to subsequently

increase and the resolution was that 'There is no alternative' - (TINA) slogan strongly associated with the conservative party.

Instead, so that my piece was more politically ambiguous I decided to use GUI button where you type in your name, which evokes ownership. I then used an array and for loop with the phrases and words and transformed them so that they would seem as though they were "bursting" out of the ballot. I also translated the jpeg image so that it would shake with the words when clicked with a mouse. I wanted this motion to be positive and resemble a "jack in the box." This motion in which the image and words are transformed also I believe likened to wiki leaks as the shape of the motion is quite sporadic and doesn't seem like it is meant. Next time, I would try and put an image on the cursor and for words to appear only when triggered in a co-ordinate of the page. In the future, I would like to use this same framework but use an API to extract data from wiki leaks specially the whistle blower Julian Assange, who has been incarcerated for exposing government secrets, who I admire greatly.