

THE LOTTOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

TODAY'S MENU

1. Why democracy (very short, I promise)
2. Evaluating Democracy
3. Problems for Democracy
4. Lottocratic alternatives
5. A side-by-side comparison

WHY DEMOCRACY?

WHY DEMOCRACY?

Institutions: Why should we want to make political decisions?
democratically?

Authority: Why should I comply with democratic decisions?

Legitimacy: Why may democratic decisions be implemented
even against my will?

PARTIALLY EPISTEMIC

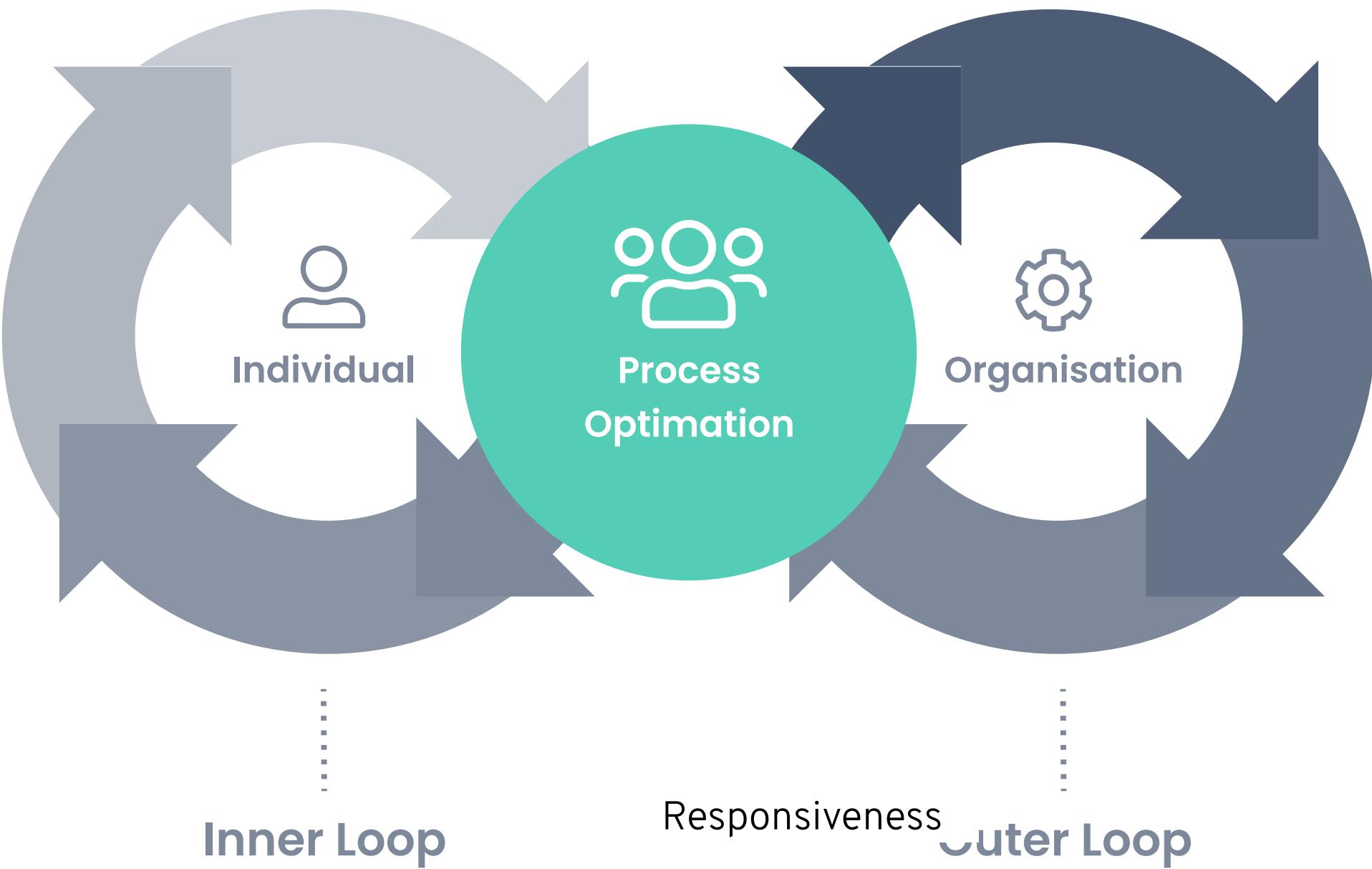
(but not the main focus)

TODAY'S MENU

1. Why democracy (very short, I promise)
2. Evaluating Democracy
3. Problems for Democracy
4. Lottocratic alternatives
5. A side-by-side comparison

EVALUATING DEMOCRACY

(Instrumentally)



RESPONSIVENESS

Political outcomes are responsive if they respond to

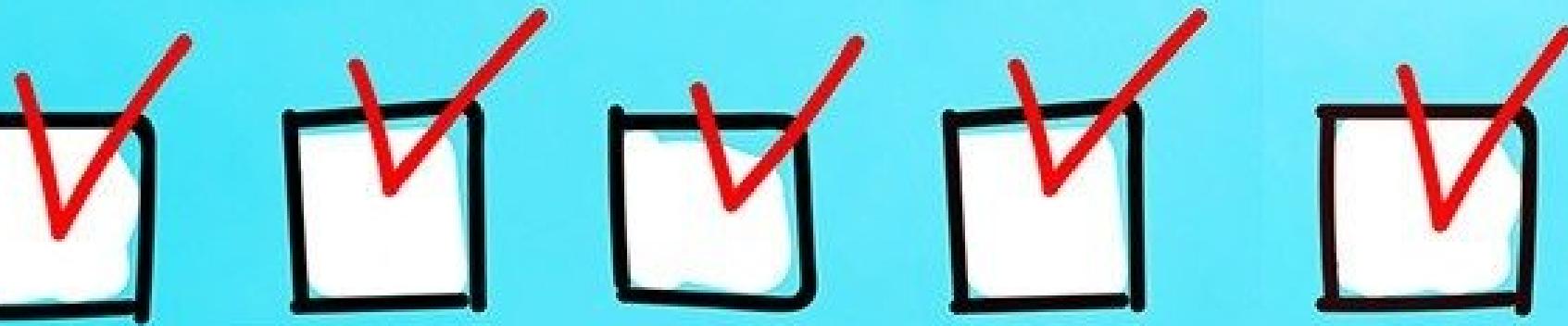
- ppl's interests,
- beliefs
- values

GOVERNANCE

- Policy can be evaluated from an objective viewpoint
- Good governance produces *good* outcomes
- Hard to define 'good'; but some cases are obvious



PRESUMABLY, SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE BOTH RESPONSIVE AND FOSTER GOOD GOVERNANCE



How do current democracies perform on
responsiveness and governance?



WHY REPRESENTATIVENESS AND GOOD OUTCOMES?

TODAY'S MENU

1. Why democracy (very short, I promise)
2. Evaluating Democracy
3. **Problems for Democracy**
4. Lottocratic alternatives
5. A side-by-side comparison

PROBLEMS FOR DEMOCRACY

On Accountability



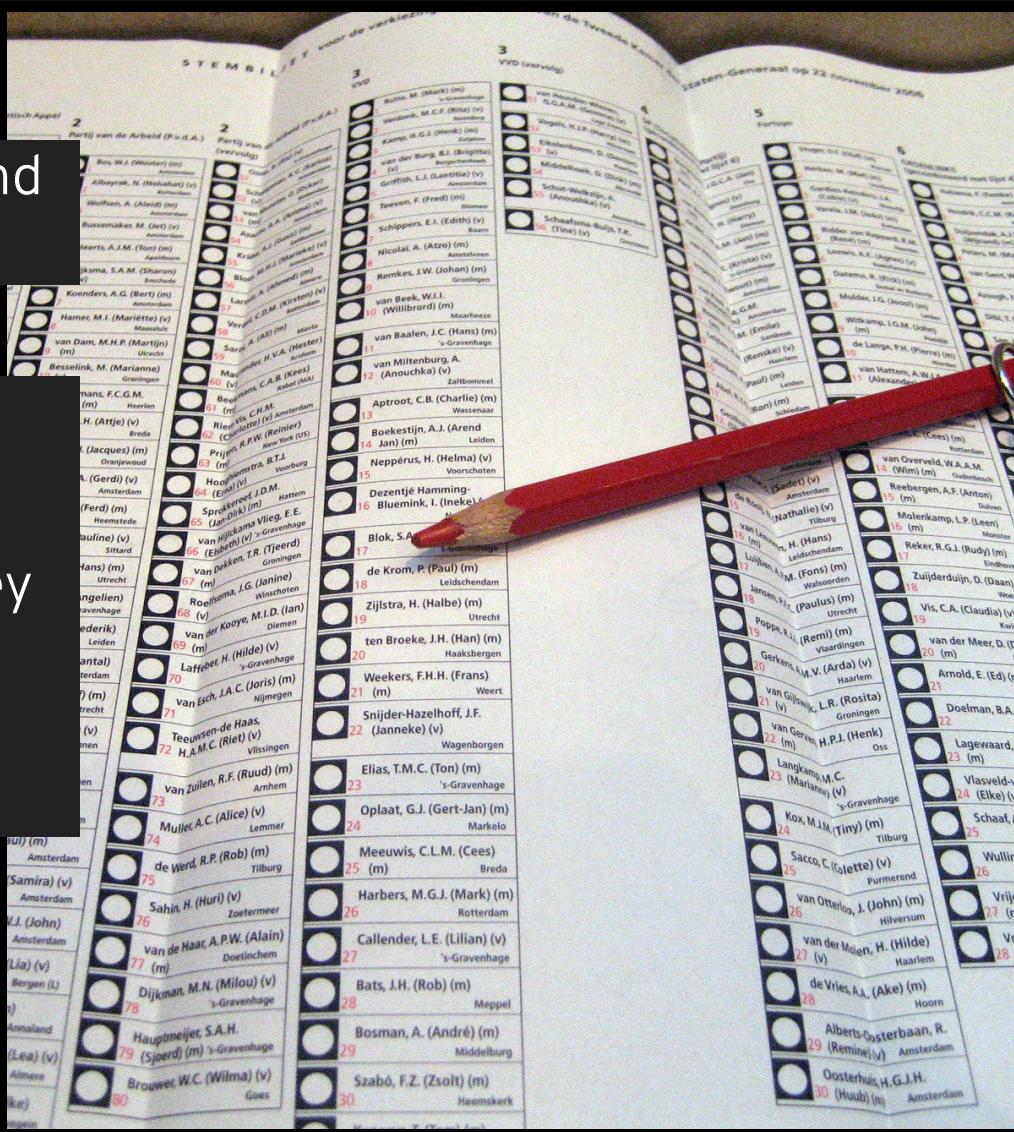
ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRES

1. Free, regular and competitive elections

If elections are free, regular, and competitive

We can hold representatives accountable by

- voting for them again if they do well
- chucking them out if they don't



BUT IS THIS ENOUGH?

MEANING OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN ELECTIONS

1. Free, regular and competitive elections
2. That citizens can monitor representatives

1. Conduct Ignorance
2. Issue Ignorance
3. Evaluative Ignorance
 - Broad and Narrow



IN SUM

We hold representatives meaningfully accountable when:

1. There are free, regular and competitive elections
2. We can monitor what representatives do

ON ELECTIONS

Current democracies don't foster free and competitive elections

- money in elections
- disenfranchisement
- gerrymandering
- ...

ON MONITORING

Current democracies don't fare well on this one either

- ignorance wrt most aspects of political life hampers monitoring
- Endless stream of bureaucracy makes this difficult

PROBLEMS FOR DEMOCRACY

Things are not going well

P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

P3. Widespread ignorance (conduct, issue and evaluative) undermines meaningful accountability

P4. There is widespread ignorance on information intensive political problems

P5. Many political problems now are information intensive

SC1/P6. Meaningful accountability is compromised for information intensive political problems

SC2/P7. If a political problem is information intensive, then systems of electoral representation will not foster responses to that problem that are responsive and that are good

C. Systems of electoral representation will not tend to bring about responsiveness and good outcomes

ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIVENESS

- Without accountability, there's no reason for representatives to be responsive
 - they can just *pretend* to be
- So it's just a matter of good fortune if they are

P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

CAPTURE

Use of official positions to advance interests of the powerful

Happens in at least two ways

- Influencing elections
- Influencing representative's positions

Facilitated when accountability is lacking



P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

P3. Widespread ignorance (conduct, issue and evaluative) undermines meaningful accountability

MEANINGFUL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRES

1. Free, regular and competitive elections
2. That citizens can monitor representatives

Maybe proxies would be enough?

P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

P3. Widespread ignorance (conduct, issue and evaluative) undermines meaningful accountability

P4. There is widespread ignorance on information intensive political problems

RATIONALLY IRRATIONAL



P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

P3. Widespread ignorance (conduct, issue and evaluative) undermines meaningful accountability

P4. There is widespread ignorance on information intensive political problems

P5. Many political problems now are information intensive

SC1/P6. Meaningful accountability is compromised for information intensive political problems

P1. Systems of electoral representation promote responsiveness only if there is meaningful accountability

P2. Systems of electoral representation promote good outcomes only if there is meaningful accountability

P3. Widespread ignorance (conduct, issue and evaluative) undermines meaningful accountability

P4. There is widespread ignorance on information intensive political problems

P5. Many political problems now are information intensive

SC1/P6. Meaningful accountability is compromised for information intensive political problems

SC2/P7. If a political problem is information intensive, then systems of electoral representation will not foster responses to that problem that are responsive and that are good

C. Systems of electoral representation will not tend to bring about responsiveness and good outcomes

THE ARGUMENT

1. No accountability = unresponsive + bad governance
2. Contemporary democracies do not have meaningful accountability
3. So, contemporary democracies do not foster responsiveness nor good governance

PROBLEMS FOR DEMOCRACY

They will continue to not go well

ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is exercised by a) initial selection; b) possibility of reelection

COMPLEXITY

Some political problems are information intensive

OPACITY

Unclear whether what the representative is doing is good or not

OPEN INFLUENCE

Restriction on how much we can prevent people from disseminating political messages

INEQUALITY

Inequality in terms of money and power among people in the electorate

TODAY'S MENU

1. Why democracy (very short, I promise)
2. Evaluating Democracy
3. Problems for Democracy
4. **Lottocratic alternatives**
5. A side-by-side comparison

LOTTOCRACY

LOTTOCRACY

THE BASICS



1. Single-issue legislative bodies

2. Legislators chosen by lottery



3. Expert advice before legislative sessions



LOTTOCRACY

STRUCTURE

1. AGENDA SETTING

- Single-issue legislatures decide on what to work on
- Wide range of options are narrowed down to a few
- These are taken as priorities

2. LEARNING PHASE

- For each item on the agenda, legislators hear from experts
- These provide general and background information on the topic to be decided
- Experts on different sides of the issue

3. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- Each legislator must discuss the issue with nonmembers from their community
- Legislators explain the issue, what the experts say, and ask nonmembers what should be done
- Legislators make their minds on the basis of this information

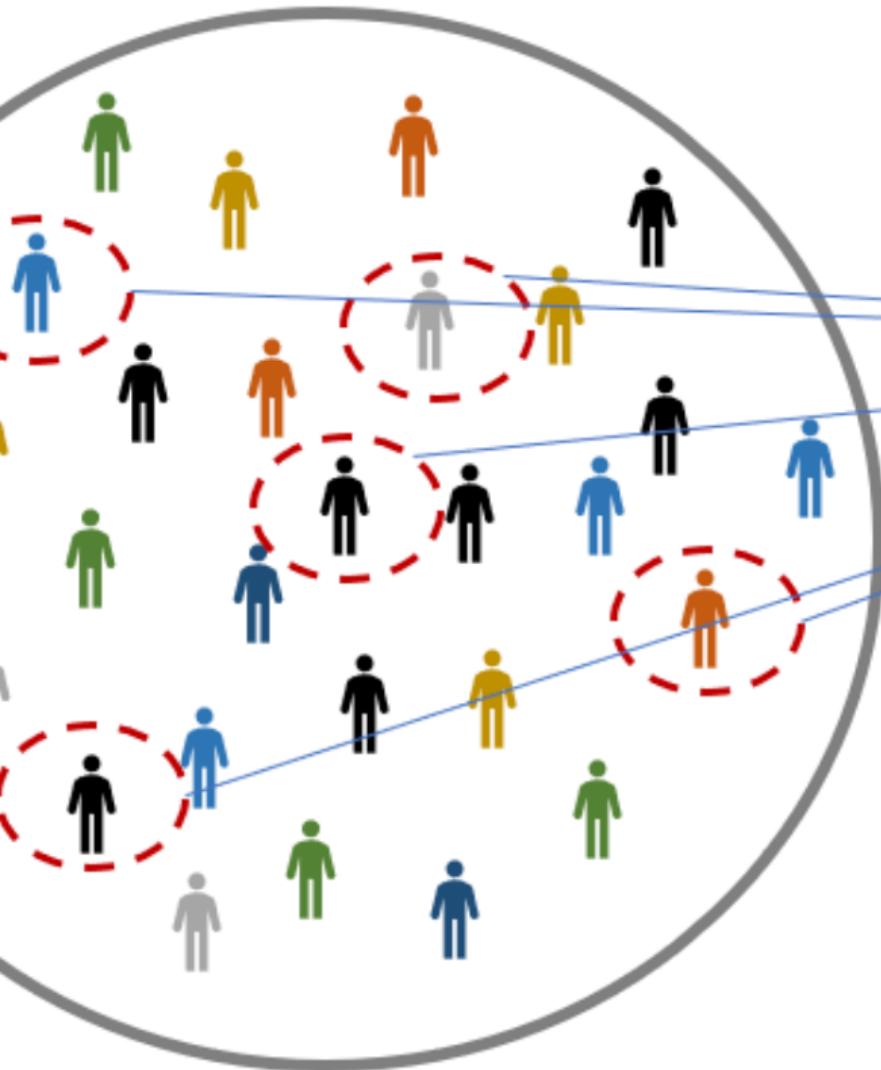
4. DELIBERATION, DRAFTING, DECISION

LOTTOCRACY

WHY LOTTOCRACY?



Population



Samp

2. More representative



3. No preference for long/short term issues

LONG

SHORT

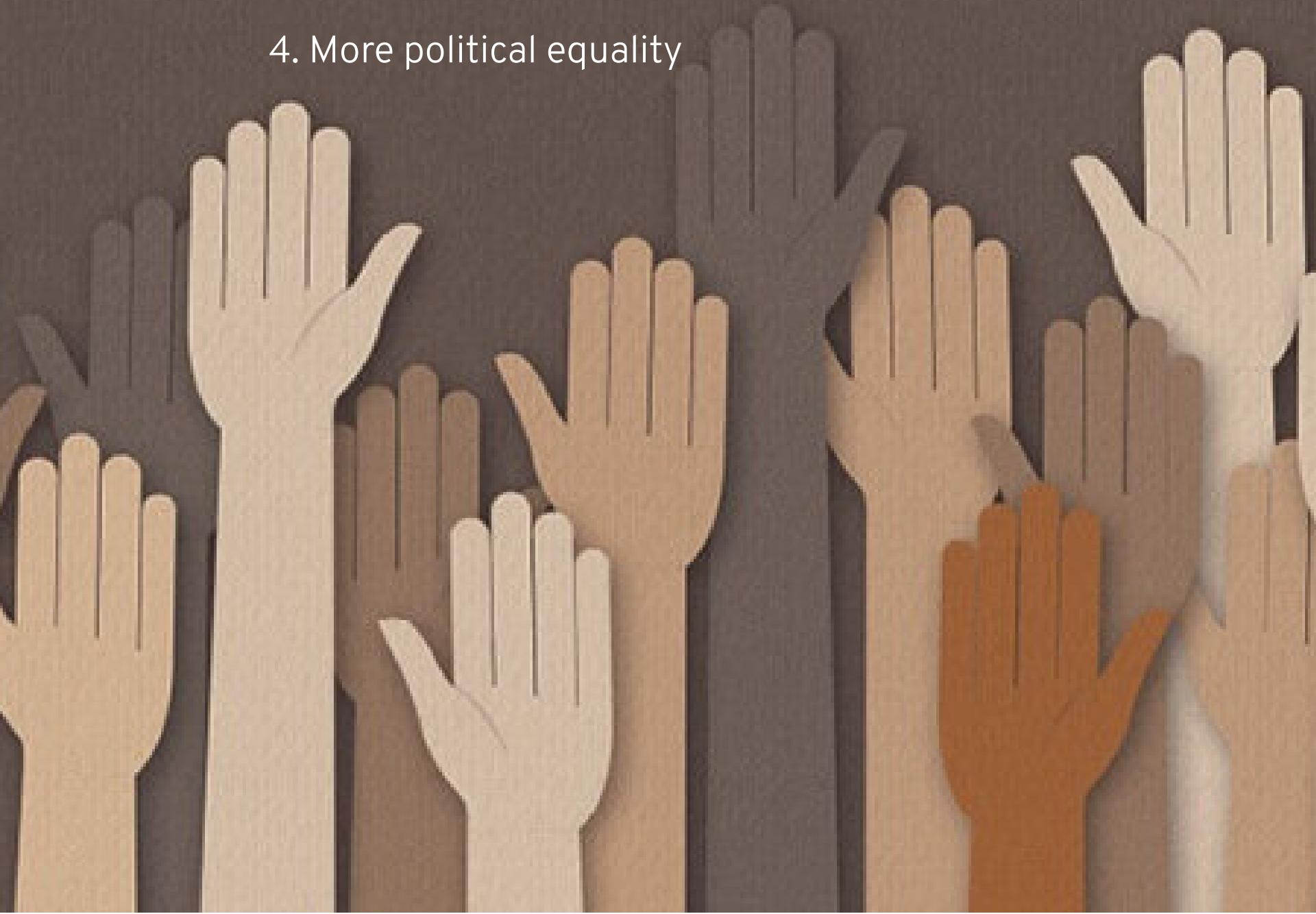
T

E

R

M

4. More political equality



ALSO,

1. Single-issue legislation facilitates better engagement with the issues being decided on
2. Blends expertise with democratic voting
3. Reduces rational ignorance

LOTTOCRACY

OBJECTIONS

REASONS AGAINST LOTTOCRACY

1. Competence
2. Capture
3. Participation

TAKING STOCK

- The basics of lottocracy
- Why lottocracy?

TODAY'S MENU

1. Why democracy (very short, I promise)
2. Evaluating Democracy
3. Problems for Democracy
4. Lottocratic alternatives
5. **A side-by-side comparison**

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

US VS LOTTOCRACY

US SO FAR

- We've been arguing against US in many ways
- But, there is an important advantage to it
- It fosters political stability

TWO ADVANTAGES

1. Easy to accept the majority vote
2. Complete enfranchisement is more easily accepted than restricted enfranchisement

In both these cases, we're talking about what people will *perceive* as fair

LOTTOCRACY

**MAY EASILY SEEM
UNFAIR**

1. DISENFRANCHISEMENT

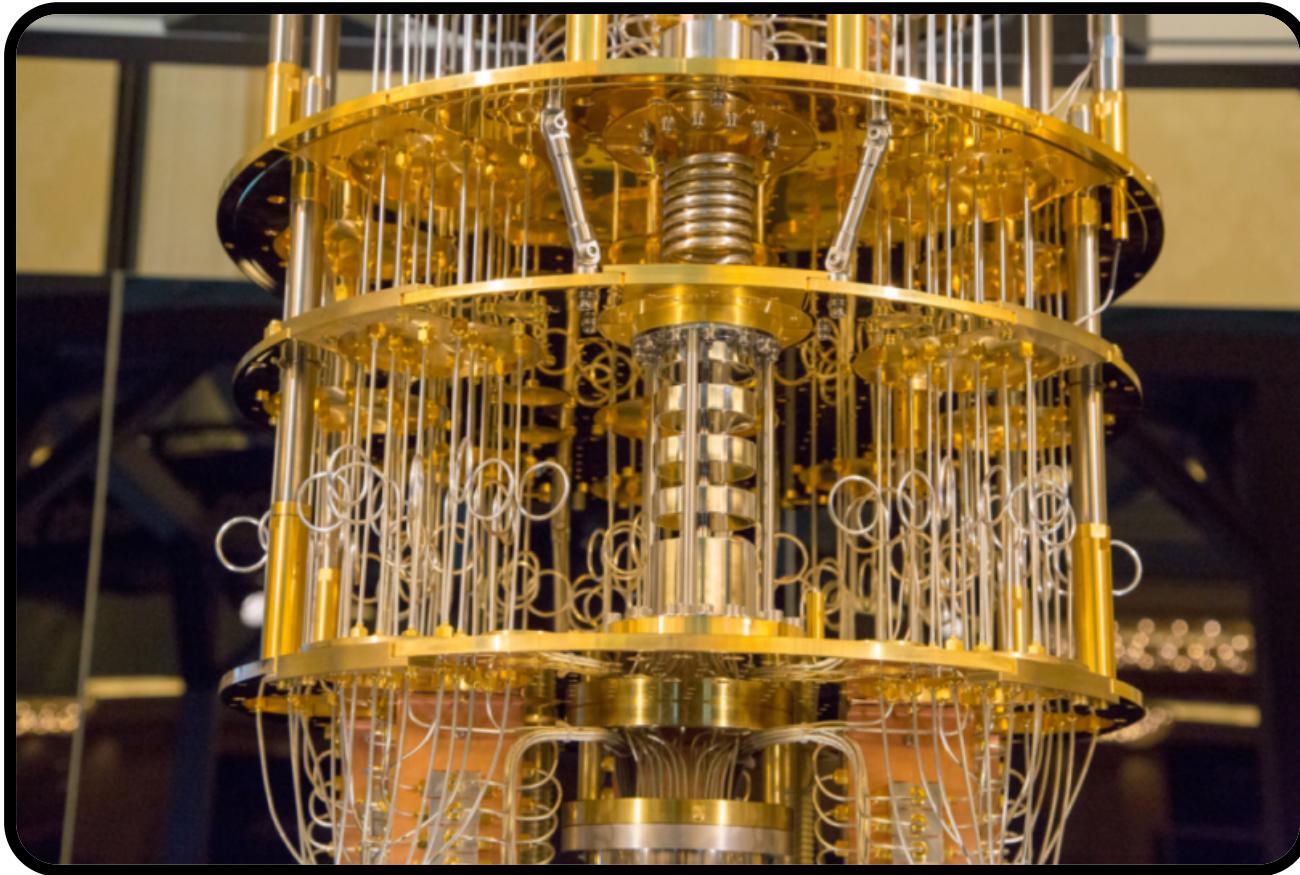
- Lottocracy requires disenfranchising some
- Results that are contrary to one's views may easily be seen as resulting from rigged or unfair process

2. ON RANDOMNESS

PERCEIVED RANDOMNESS



ACTUAL RANDOMNESS



2. ON RANDOMNESS

- Perceived randomness is easily rigged
- But real randomness is hard to accept

So we either accept the subpar option, or we risk the *perception* of being unfair/rigged

**IN SUM, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO ACCEPT RESULTS
REACHED BY US**

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

US VS LOTTOCRACY (CONTD.)

SO, WHICH ONE SHOULD WE USE?

- Lottocracy has many obvious advantages
- But ppl are more likely to accept decisions reached by US
- And political legitimacy requires acceptance
 - or else, it's just forced consent

BALANCING

Three ways of weighing systems of governance against each other

1. See if any one of them is vastly superior in some dimension
2. Evaluate which dimension is more valuable and see which system wins out on it
3. See which system can be fixed by its own design



US

- Has many problems, as we have been seeing
- But, these problems can be (in principle) resolved and the system's basic design is preserved

LOTTOCRACY

- Can easily be *perceived* as unfair
- And, these problems *cannot* be resolved without radically changing the system's design

SO US HAS AN EDGE...

END