

AMS Continuous VoterMedia Voting Statistics for November 2010

Mark Latham – December 30, 2010

These statistics are from votes cast via the ballot at votermedia.org/ubc from November 1 through November 30, 2010:

Rank	Blog	Award	Voters
1	AMS Confidential	\$312.40	53
2	11' Eleven"	\$252.60	60
3	UBC Insiders	\$245.70	44
4	Tyler's Blog	\$39.30	25
5	Radical Beer Tribune	\$0.00	16
Totals:		\$850.00	198

Notes:

1. There were **106** voters altogether. Some supported more than one blog. The total of 198 in the Voters column above is the number of cases of a voter supporting a blog.
2. Some voters supported one blog and left the other blogs blank. Some voters supported one blog and voted 0% for all the other blogs. Our tally system ignores 0% votes anyway, so these two cases are treated the same. Consistent with that, the above vote counts ignore 0% votes.
3. The blog with the most supporters (11' Eleven") did not win the highest award, because many of their supporters voted them a lower percent share than those who supported AMS Confidential. Especially when a voter supports two or more blogs, they often vote different shares for different blogs.
4. Some voters voted just once in the month. Others voted several times. (Our award calculation handles this as described in votermedia.org/faqs#Voting.) The above vote tallies count each relationship of a voter supporting a blog only once, no matter how many times in the month that voter voted for that blog. (If this were an *annual* statistical summary, we would probably count each support relationship in each month it was repeated.)

Discussion:

We can compare voter participation with the amount of money at stake. \$850 allocated by 106 voters is a participation rate of 125 voters per \$1000. Compare this with the 6179 voters in January 2010 AMS elections of leaders who allocate a discretionary budget of \$2 million – that's 3 voters per \$1000.

Considering the limited amount of money involved, it makes sense for UBC students to delegate the allocation decisions to those 106 people. They are more engaged in reading the blogs and comparing their quality. Thanks to their intelligent voting, student funds support blogs that contribute substantially to discussion of AMS issues.

We can expect votermedia voting participation to increase during the January 2011 election period. We should also publicize votermedia and encourage more readership and participation. And we can enhance blogger competition by implementing the "spread" model described in votermedia.blogspot.com/2010/12/spreading-wealth-among-competing-blogs.html.

Bloggers invest in their reputations year-round. Even though votermedia funding has been fluctuating widely month-by-month, blogging is much more continuous. During months when there is funding, bloggers get paid for both their current and their past work in building up readership.

Some bloggers also contribute in more ways than blogging – e.g. see Neal Yonson's advocacy work in cooperation with the AMS President described in the video "VoterMedia at UBC" (votermedia.org/videos/2).