

[This topic has been discussed](#) broadly and within the Optimism community, but I wanted to reopen discussion around it particularly as it relates to the Optimism constitution in the long term.

PROBLEM

- We need to be able to move to a democratic, person-based voting system rather than a token-based one to deliver the Optimistic Vision
- Users are incentivized to support public goods
- Investors are incentivized to support whatever is most profitable
- Public goods in name only, or eventually not at all
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- Whale delegates are incentivized to maintain status quo (token voting)
- Once a better voting mechanism arrives, the people necessary to approve the shift will be the biggest losers from it and will need to voluntarily vote to permanently give up the power they worked to gain
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- Tokenholders will not want to move to a system that leaves governance tokens worthless, and are incentivized to delegate to whales who oppose a move away from token-based voting
- Optimism's success will inevitably attract the attention of much larger entities who will effectively become dictators/oligarchs ("Amazon governance", North Korea plundering treasury)
- At current prices, Amazon could unilaterally make any decision for just \$46M (\$200M assuming a 4.3x premium to buy that amount of tokens)
- An anticipated shift away from token-based voting could collapse the OP price and create a window for even more malicious actors to buy enough tokens to plunder the treasury
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- In the long term, a hard fork would eventually be needed to make this transition, with all the assets and activity on "Optimism Classic" by default
- "True believer" core devs will need to make a last ditch effort to shift development to the new chain, hopefully convincing users it's the canonical one, but risking their income for ideological reasons in the process
- The "classic" chain could respond by making minor changes to convince users to stay, inertia and apathy win, leading to a contentious hard fork with the new, mission-driven Optimism smaller and less able to deliver on the Vision particularly without the benefit of a sizable treasury or strong sequencer revenue to fund development

SOLUTION

A meta-constitution needs to be established (similar to a difficulty bomb for governance) that sets some parameters which can be met to swiftly update the governance process away from token-based voting as soon as a better model is available and the treasury is sufficiently diversified with non-OP assets and robust sequencer revenue

The longer it takes to commit to this, the more difficult it will become to get support for and implement (investor-class plutocrats will become overwhelmingly powerful)