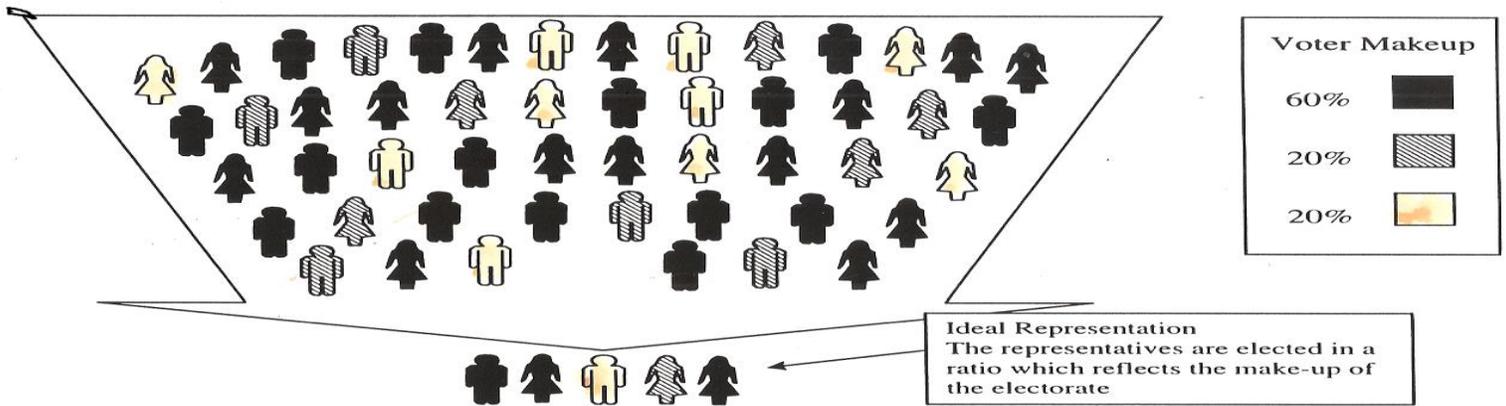


# Please Vote NO on #19

Our current at-large City Council election system and the proposed District Hybrid system have some common faults. Both systems leave up to 49% of the voters with no chance to elect a representative. That's because the so called "Representative" body is elected by the same simple majority of Seattle voters. Who should the City Council strive to represent? Ideally, the Council should mirror the political make-up of the entire community. This hypothetical city below shows one way to do it:



In this example, 60% of the voters tend to be of one political persuasion and 2 other groups comprise about 20% of the voters. In order to represent the broadest possible political spectrum this 5 person city council would elect 3 majority members and each of the large minority groups would have the power to elect 1 representative. This is what is meant by Proportional Representation.

We don't have the option to achieve this level of representation on the upcoming ballot but it would be much easier to achieve in the future if we started with our current at-large election system. It's also easy to see that dividing the city into smaller districts works against all scattered minority groups, unless your goal is to encourage political segregation by geography.

Let's go forward, not backward. Districts are an 18th Century solution for a 21st Century problem. Modern voting offers better representation in U.S. cities like Cambridge, MA; Minneapolis, MN, Peoria, IL, Amarillo TX and Hartford CT. Such election systems should be examined and pursued now!

There ARE better ways to elect a more Representative City Council, but creating two classes of Council members and segregating the City into seven "pork hungry" fiefdoms is NOT the way to accomplish it! Creating a new election system which is worse than the one it replaces is not progress!

Districts pit the interests of one geographic area against the others rather than addressing the priorities of the entire City. The candidate who best serves your interest does not necessarily live in your neighborhood.

If you like gerrymandering, Districts are for you! Those who draw the lines play a more important role in selecting the winner than the voters who cast the ballots!

Districting stifles diversity within neighborhoods encouraging the development of political machines like the infamous east coast ward scandals which we hear about. They protect incumbents at all costs thus making it harder for newcomers to be heard and elected.

Our current at-large system of electing nine equally powerful Council members provides a good framework for improvement. Adopting this misguided District hybrid proposal would set us back for another generation or two.

Seattle Voters have rejected districting proposals in 1975, 1995 and 2003. How many more times do we have to say NO?