

Liquid Democracy

Representative democracy

controlled by

Direct democracy

powered by

Internet



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1 Introduction

Liquid Democracy is a new proposition on how to organize voting system in a country. It uses modern communication technologies to solve problems of current representative democracy. It allows voters to use their mobile phones to choose or change representatives at any moment and to cast direct votes or override the votes of their representatives at any moment.

The main implications of Liquid Democracy is ease of use of direct democracy and prevention and reduction of corruption among representatives.

Direct democracy allows us to have zero cost referendum which should make referendum much more accessible and give power back to the people.

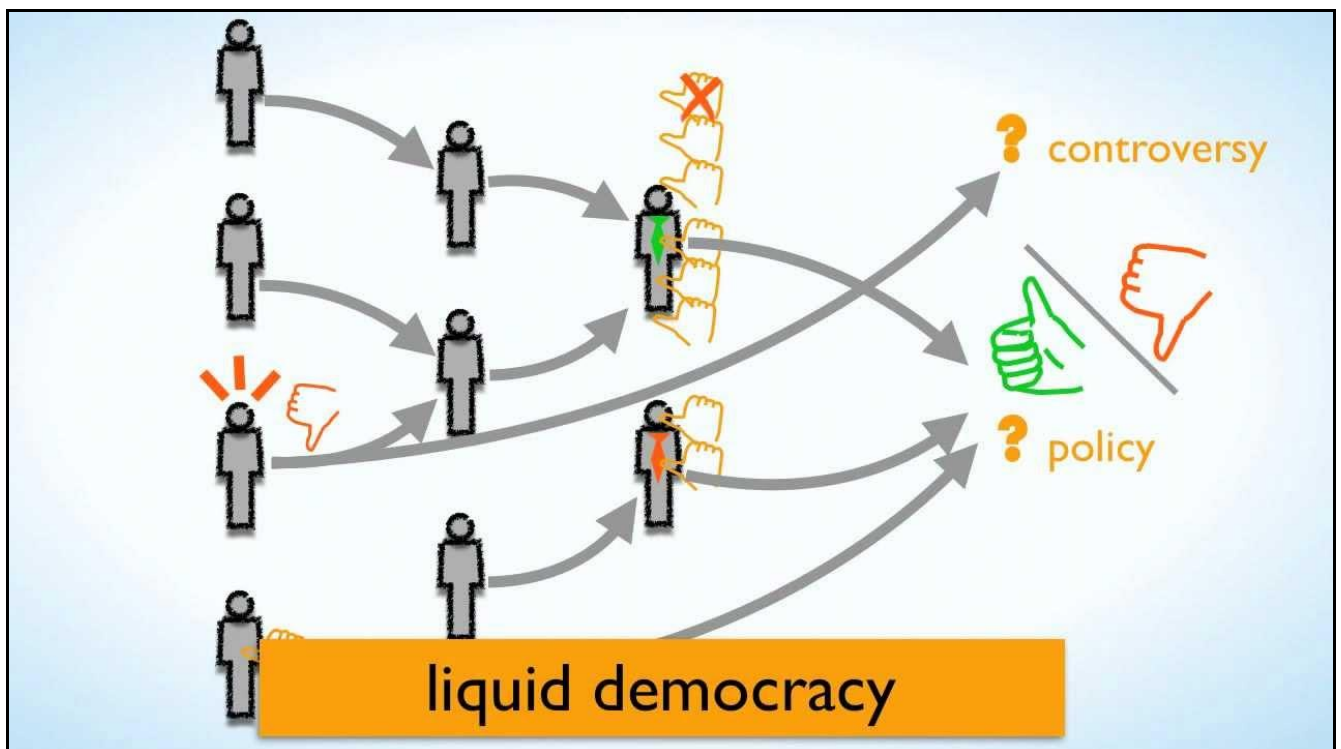
Additionally Liquid Democracy allows voter to choose anyone as his representative. That means that voter can choose someone he trusts rather than being forced to choose from small number of corrupt representatives.

Additionally it allows voter to replace his representative at any point. This mechanisms reduces corruption among representatives.

Even more powerful mechanisms allows voter to override its representative thus completely preventing possibility of representative voting against the will of his voters.

A short video explaining Liquid Democracy can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg0_Vhldz-8.

Liquid Democracy



2 Why democracy?

Why democracy?

Democracy was invented as a solution to previous forms of political organization which were concentrating all of the power to either single person or small group of people. These people would then direct all of the power and wealth toward themselves without any care for general population.

Ide was that through democracy general population could finally create laws in their own interest resulting in greater prosperity for majority of people. So the core idea behind democracy is to allow people to govern themselves rather than having someone else telling them what to do.

Having this in mind it is quite astonishing that representative democracy carries word democracy in its name since it is obvious that in representative democracy we again have small number of people acting in their own interest against the interest of the majority, the same type of political organization democracy was supposed to replace. It seems that those in power have found an effective way to continue to rule over many while preserving the idea among many that it is the majority that is actually ruling as was intended in democracy. Basically they completely changed the meaning of the term democracy and invented new term, direct democracy, in order to refer to original idea of democracy. This allowed them to start inventing different types of democracies simply by placing different word before the term democracy in order to manipulate general public into thinking that these new political structures are democratic just because they contain the word democracy in their names.

Even though democracy might be better political form of ruling then previous mechanisms it is probably not the most ideal one. The biggest strength of democracy lies in the fact that since people are making laws for themselves they would probably make them in a way that benefits them. This is in sharp contrast to let's say kingdom where king makes laws in his own interest without any care for his people.

Expertise

On the other hand ruling a country requires great knowledge and understanding of different complex processes and therefore country should be ruled by experts in those fields. This is how people are chosen to run any other aspect of community. Democracy is like taking group of people from the street and putting them into jumbo jet to drive on their own without any previous training or knowledge on how to fly a plane. This might look like a bit of a catastrophic scenario but compared to alternative where we have skilled pilot who suddenly decides to clear the plane from all of the passengers, in mid-air, so that he could keep all the food to himself, previous scenario doesn't look that bad any more.

So leading a country should be given to those who actually know what they are doing. Unfortunately those people usually get corrupted very easily and then their knowledge suddenly becomes counterproductive since they start to use it against the people they were supposed to protect. So until we invent some technology which could guaranty integrity of our representatives we are stuck with direct democracy as the best possible political organization.

In other words choosing a group of experts to run a country is not a solution because there is no guaranty that they will use their expertise in the interest of people. In other words just because someone is an expert in some field it doesn't mean by a long shot that it is also a moral person. Such person is still just a person and for majority of people self-interest comes before interests of the community. So instead of trying to find good knowledgeable people to run the country we should instead try to invent system which works even if it is run by immoral people. Idea is to use expertise of these people but at the same time to be able to prevent them to misuse their powers.

And this is where direct democracy comes in. People exercising direct democracy are those that should keep experts in line. In other words experts can only give opinions on different subjects but they can't make any decisions. Decision making is left to the people through direct democracy. This gives us a form of separation of powers. In such a system power is split

between two groups of people. This should be an improvement compared to a system where power to propose solutions and power to make decisions lies in the same group of people. Just imagine what would happen if you are a person that has both power to propose a solution and power to make decision which solution to use. In such scenario most people would propose solution that mostly benefits them and then it will automatically choose their own solutions even if there are other solution which are better.

Now the question arises: "But how will common people know which solution to choose if they don't have expertize to properly judge them?".

2.1 How to vote?

Choose randomly

Well in the most basic scenario people could randomly choose any of the given solution, test it out and if it doesn't work switch to another next time around. Presumption is that even a common person should be able to figure out if the plain is flying or not. Or in other words if they are living better or worse after implementing proposed solution.

That is of course if people are selecting solution based on its effectiveness on solving certain problems and not based on ideology. Which is often not the case. Many people are actually proud of the fact that they continue electing people that are destroying their country. How is that possible? Simple, they feel that being devoted to a certain political party is more important than avoiding destruction of the country. And they are proud of just how devoted they are to the point that they are prepared to sacrifice their country. It is like being prepared to give your life for something good but in this case you are giving your country for something bad.

Trust

Another approach would be to choose a solution from the person they trust. For instance if that person was already proposing other solutions in the past and they proved to be valid. Or to avoid selecting solutions from a person whom they don't trust. For instance if that person was already proposing other solutions in the past and they failed. In other words if certain political party is continuously leading the country into prosperity people can choose to continue to vote for them. But if certain political party is continuously leading the country into ruin then better approach would be to vote for any other political party which might at least give 50% chance that they might be better.

This approach gives no guaranty that such political party will come any time soon. Mainly because it is a known practice that leading political parties are inventing false alternatives which are supposed to confuse people. For instance at every election a new political party would pop up criticizing existing party in order to attract votes. But when such political party wins the election it will continue to do everything the same as the party it was supposed to replace. This is because that party was invented and created by the leading party as a false alternative simple to collect the votes of disappointed voters.

Splitting responsibility

The third approach would be to split the voices between different parties and to allow all of them to participate in the government. Idea is that parties would split their responsibilities of governing the country. After some time people could see which sectors are doing better. So if all sectors under control of Party A are doing well and all sectors under control of Party B are doing badly this should be a clear indication that Party A has better experts. So this first election was like a test which party is better and on the next election people should give more votes to better performing Party A so that it could also fix sectors previously assigned to Party B which weren't doing very well.

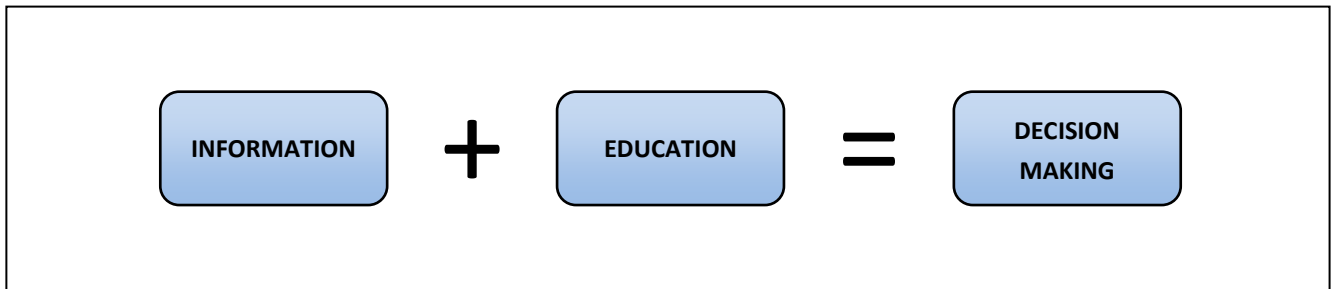
Good thing about this approach is that political parties would control each other. This might allow both parties to perform better than they would on their own. This check disappears once the Party A takes full control of the country at the next elections which might lead to corruption which might lead to worse performance.

2.2 Elements of Direct Democracy

All of the above methods on choosing proper political party to run the country are quite primitive. They assume that people have very basic abilities of making proper decisions. And we have also shown that ruling parties can use different manipulation techniques to further reduce the effectiveness of the above approaches. So in order to allow people to make better decisions proper Direct Democracy should have following basic three elements as shown by the image.

This means that when a person receives certain information, it should be able to properly process it using education that he has received through the schooling system in order to make valid decision.

Elements of Direct Democracy



In other words if any of these three elements is not properly functioning in a country then people would not be able to make valid decisions and their votes are more likely to be manipulated. This is why ruling parties in many countries do not teach these subject in a school because corrupt politicians do not want to have educated voters which can't be manipulated easily. Instead they want to have uneducated, uninformed and powerless voters which can be easily divided through ideological question and which are not capable of understating and processing information or learning from the previous mistakes or mistakes of other countries.

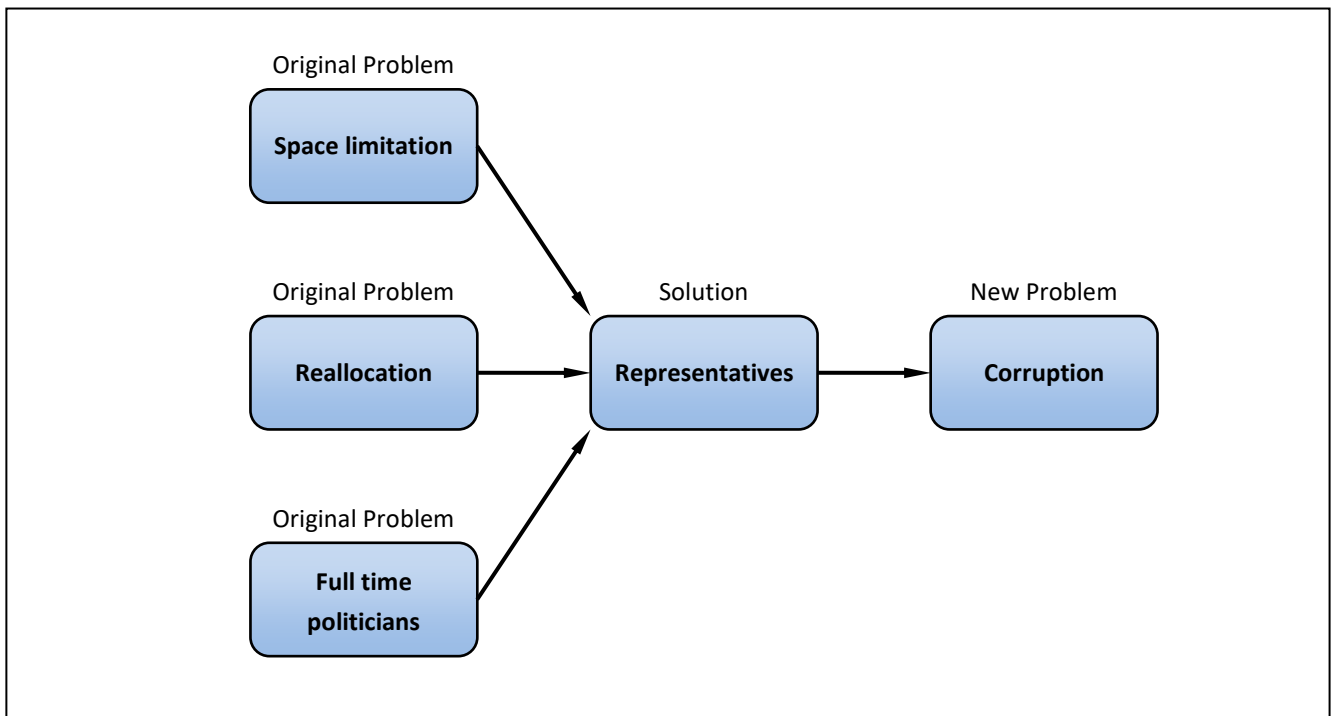
3 Why representative democracy?

This chapter explains why representative democracy was invented, what were people trying to achieve with it and what problems did they try to solve.

Representative democracy is actually very poor practical approximation of direct democracy. People wanted to have society where everyone would have direct vote on political issue because such approach was considered to be the best. This is the basis of direct democracy. Unfortunately, in the past, it was not possible to practically implement such political environment. There are three main problems that needed to be solved and at that time they proved to be unsolvable. Each of these problems will be introduced separately in chapters that follow. Solving these three problems is the only thing that keeps us away from direct democracy.

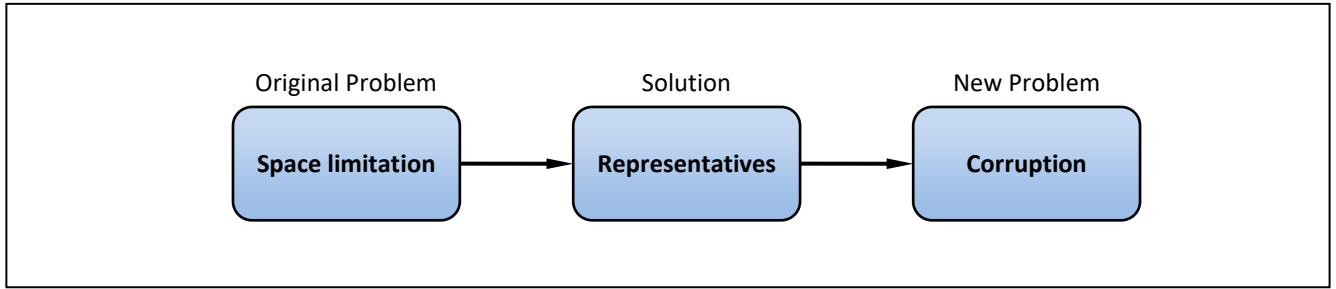
In following three chapters we are discussion which problems of Direct Democracy people tried to solve by introducing Representative Democracy. And as described in those chapters we will see that this has introduced a problem a corruption among Representatives, a well-known problem in all representative democracies across the globe.

Problems of Direct Democracy



3.1 Space limitation

Space limitation



Original Problem

First problem of Direct Democracy is limited amount of space in a voting room needed to place everyone who wanted to vote.

Solution

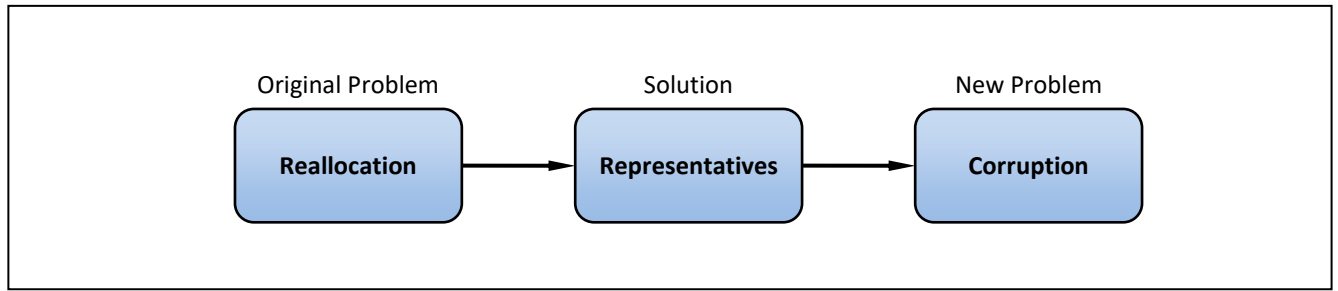
Since it was not possible to put 5 million people in one room, so that each of them could directly give their votes, solution was found by choosing representatives. One way to do this would be to separate 5 million people into groups of 1 million people and let each group select their representative. This way we would now need to place only 5 people in a single room compared to 5 million and that was practically possible. Now instead of 5 million people voting we have 5 people voting. This way we did solve the problem of finding room big enough for all those who have the power to vote but unfortunately this solution introduced a new problem.

New Problem

And the biggest problem with this solution, with this approximation of direct democracy, was assumption that representatives would act in the best interest of the group they represented. Unfortunately this assumption has proven to be wrong because it has no basis in the human nature. For most people it is not in the human nature to sacrifice their interests for the interests of the others. This means that as soon as representative is confronted between choosing to do good for himself compared to do good for the group he represents he will in most cases choose to act in his own interest. If his interest is also in the interest of his voters then there is no problem. But in most cases it was shown that by following his own interests representatives do a great damage to their voters.

3.2 Reallocation

Reallocation



Original Problem

Even if there is no problem of finding room big enough for 5 million people and even if voting for every single vote would take only fraction of time and therefore not significantly interfering with other work that needs to be done, one other problem still remains. If you take 5 million people from all over the country and reallocate them in that single voting room people would not be able to have normal lives since they wouldn't be able to do other work essential for their existence.

Solution

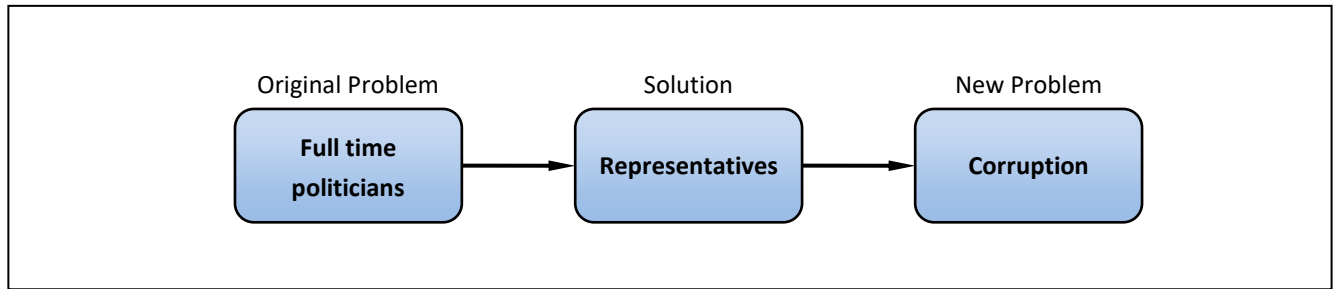
Once again solution presents itself in the form of representative. Again we could separate 5 million people into groups of 1 million people and let each group select their representative. Now only representatives would have to reallocate themselves to the voting room allowing others to go on with their daily lives.

New Problem

Problem with this solution is the same as discussed before since we have already shown that representatives usually do not work in the best interest of the group they represent.

3.3 Full time politicians

Full time politicians



Original Problem

Another problem is that if you have direct democracy and require everyone to vote on every single law then you are turning people into full time politicians. In order to vote they would need to discuss and examine the laws before voting which takes a lot of time. Society where everyone is politician and nobody does anything else can't function since people need to attend to various other activities to have functioning society.

Solution

Once again solution presents itself in the form of representatives. Now even if putting 5 million people in one room would not be a problem turning them into full time positions would be. Again we could separate 5 million people into groups of 1 million people and let each group select their representatives. Such representatives would then devote his full time in discussing and examining laws and then use this knowledge to vote in the best interest of the group they represents.

New Problem

Problem with this solution is the same as discussed before since we have already shown that representatives usually do not work in the best interest of the group they represent. Usually they follow their own interests which often hurts the interests of their voters. Also most politicians do not devote their time in examining and discussing law but simply follow instructions given to them by those who through those politicians are taking care of their own interests.

4 Why Liquid Democracy?

Liquid democracy is based on introducing elements of direct democracy into existing system governed by representative democracy. Ability to introduce elements of direct democracy heavily relies on use of modern communication technologies like internet, finally allowing us to move forward from representative democracy into the realm of direct democracy. Idea is to use modern communication technologies to allow people to have direct vote on various political issues.

Depending on how active voters are, such system can either become pure representative democracy (if voters decide not to cast direct votes) or pure direct democracy (if people decide to cast direct votes on every single issue).

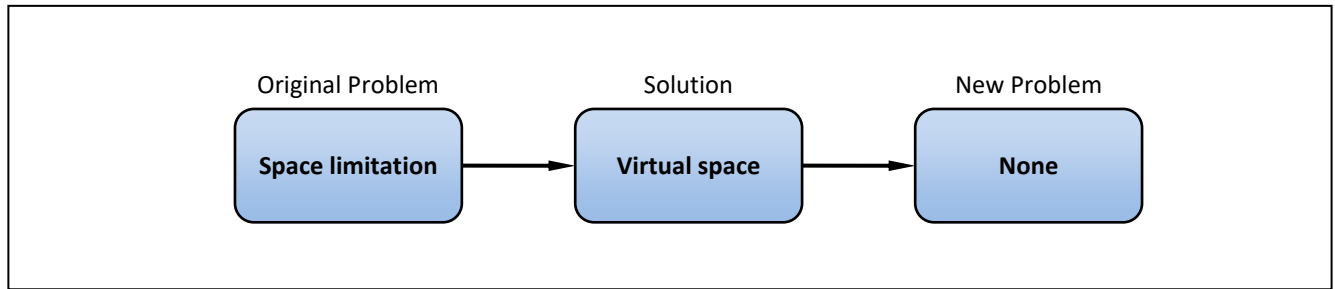
Just like representative democracy was invented to solve problems of direct democracy, Liquid democracy was also invented to solve problems of direct democracy but without negative side effects of representative democracy which are mainly expressed in the form of corruption among representatives.

Bear in mind that ideal goal is to have direct democracy. But because of the inherent problems of direct democracy, as described in previous chapters, we are looking for the best approximation of the direct democracy. So far this was representative democracy. But representative democracy failed to deliver true spirit of direct democracy. With the rapid development of information technologies classic representative democracy has become obsolete and we are now able to offer a system that can encapsulate true spirit of direct democracy while avoiding negatives of both direct democracy and representative democracy.

Following chapters show how Liquid democracy solves problems related to implementing pure direct democracy and how it solves problems previously introduced by representative democracy.

4.1 Space limitation

Space limitation



Original Problem

First problem of Direct Democracy is limited amount of space in a voting room needed to place everyone who wanted to vote.

Solution

Modern communication technologies allow us to put as many people as we want in a single virtual voting room. This technology allows us instant access to any place in a world. Of course not in a physical way but allowing us to have presence in a sense needed to resurrect direct democracy.

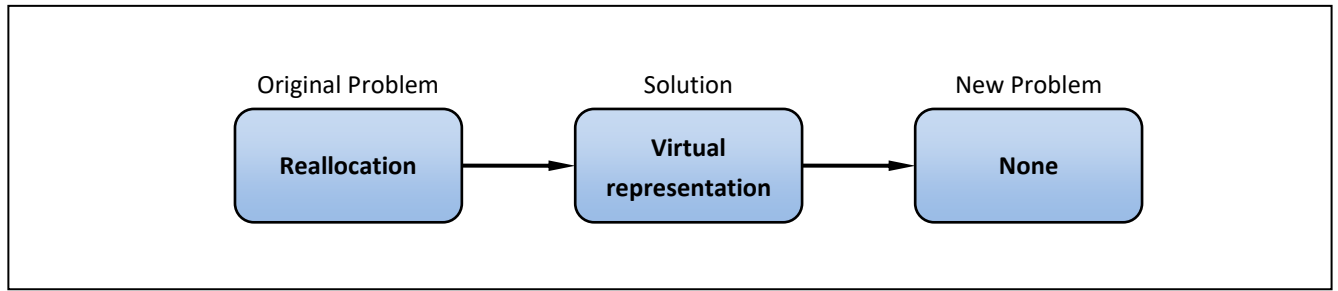
What is even more astonishing is that those people don't even need to be in a room at the same time since votes could be collected asynchronously during a defined period of time. Such period of time could be defined as a specific time interval like one week. But it could also be defined as the time it takes to collect majority of votes.

New Problem

The great thing about this solution is that it doesn't introduce any new problems in the long run. We are now living in a world that is rapidly developing and accepting new technologies. There are still people that either refuse to use certain new technologies and some that might still don't know how to use them. But these people are few and their numbers are rapidly declining and soon they will become an exception. For people who refuse to use modern technologies needed to implement Liquid Democracy current system of fixed representatives can still remain in place. This would still allow those people to have their representatives although they would not be able to use additional functionalities provided by Liquid Democracy. Of course only time will tell if certain other dangers might occur which might not be as obvious at this moment.

4.2 Reallocation

Reallocation



Original Problem

Even if there is no problem of finding room big enough for 5 million people and even if voting for every single vote would take only fraction of time and therefore not significantly interfering with other work that needs to be done, one other problem still remains. If you take 5 million people from all over the country and reallocate them in that single voting room people would not be able to have normal lives since they wouldn't be able to do other work essential for their existence.

Solution

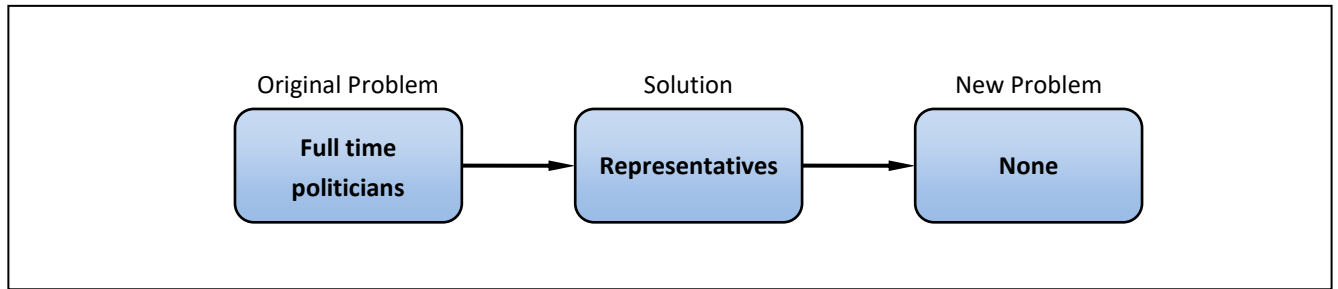
Modern communication technologies also solve this problem of direct democracy of having to reallocate voters to a voting room in order to allow them to vote. With the use of internet, voter can physically be in any place in the world but still be able to achieve presence in virtual voting room where voting is taking place. Such virtual representations of physical person is known as Avatar. But in case of casting a vote having an account would be enough.

New Problem

The great thing about this solution is that it doesn't introduce any new problems in the long run. This is the same as discussed about Space limitation problem where only temporary problem are people who still don't want to or for some reason refuse to use new technologies. Of course only time will tell if certain other dangers might occur which might not be as obvious at this moment.

4.3 Full time politicians

Full time politicians



Original Problem

Another problem is that if you have direct democracy and require everyone to vote on every single law then you are turning people into full time politicians. In order to vote they would need to discuss and examine the laws before voting which takes a lot of time. Society where everyone is politician and nobody does anything else can't function since people need to attend to various other activities to have functioning society.

Solution

Unfortunately current state of our technology still cannot give us solution for not turning people into full time politicians if we wanted to implement pure direct democracy. And this is the only reason why we would still need representatives as solution to this problem. But unlike classic representative democracy, liquid democracy has more elaborate mechanism for choosing representatives which allows us to completely remove possibility of corruption. Assumption is that those mechanisms are actually being used. In other words that people are actively participating in decision making process rather than allowing representative to do whatever they want.

How exactly representatives can be choose inside Liquid Democracy will be described in greater detail in subsequent chapters. But to sum it up it is enough to say that representative can be changed at any time, any other voter can be selected as the representative and every voter can override its representative's vote. This makes it impossible for representative to act against the wishes of its voters. If representative votes differently, than voter will simply override its vote and choose another more trustworthy representative. This will result in representative losing its voting power without being able to deliver what he has promised to shadowy interests groups that wanted him to betray his voters. He becomes irrelevant in future voting and does not receive any reward from the interests groups. In other words he has nothing to gain by betraying his voters. Such mechanism will allow us to have immoral representatives properly running the country because going to the dark side would not be profitable any more.

New Problem

The way representatives can be chosen in Liquid Democracy does not create any negative side effects. Mechanisms implemented inside Liquid Democracy should avoid current problem of having corrupt politicians. Of course only time will tell if certain other dangers might occur which might not be as obvious at this moment.

5 How Liquid Democracy works?

Following chapters present different functionalities provided by Liquid Democracy. List of these functionalities is given in below table with a short description.

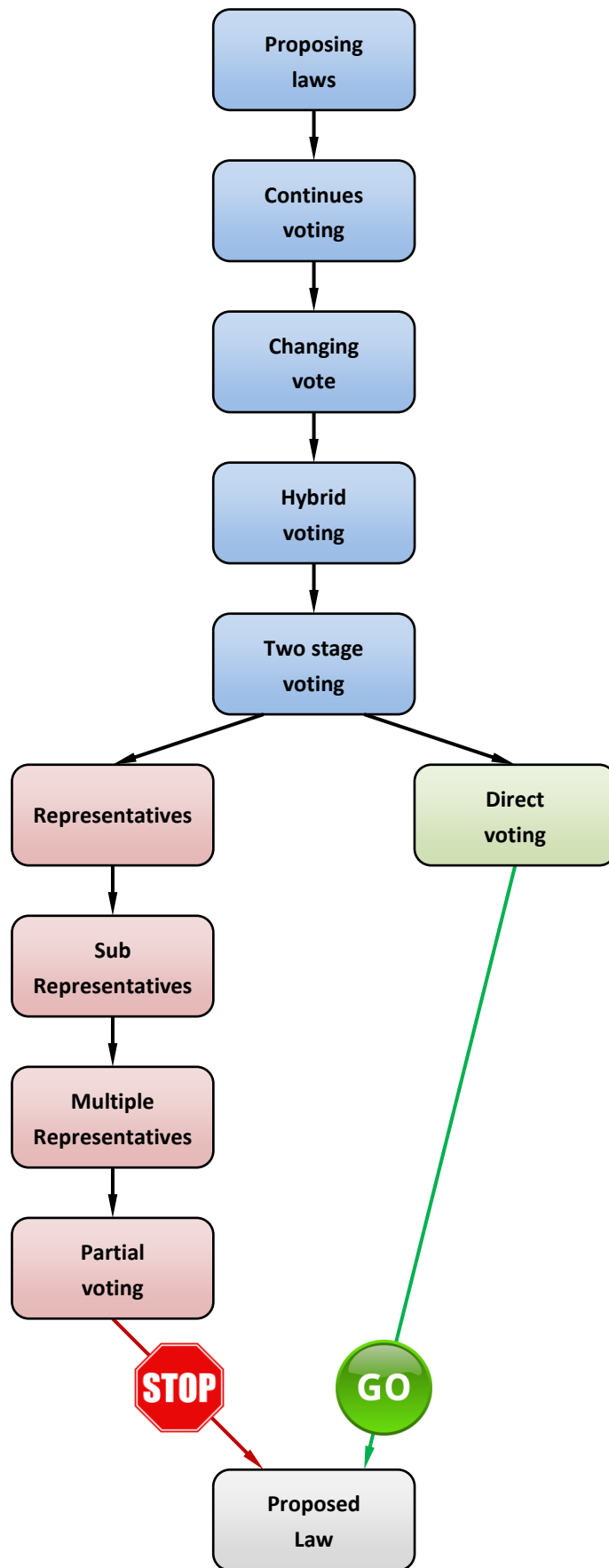
Functionalities of Liquid Democracy

FUNCTIONALITIES	DESCRIPTION
Hybrid voting	At any time voter can vote directly or his representative can vote instead of him.
Two step voting	Voter can override a vote given by his representative through direct voting.
Direct voting	At any time voter can vote directly for a specific issue.
Representatives	At any time voter can change its representative which can be any other voter.
Sub Representatives	Any Representative can forward its votes to some other representative
Multiple representatives	Voter can choose multiple representatives, different one for each subject.
Partial voting	Representatives can split their votes to vote differently on the same law.
Continues voting	There is no given time frame inside which votes need to be cast
Proposing laws	Voters and representatives cab freely propose laws.
Changing vote	Voters and representatives can change the way you have voted

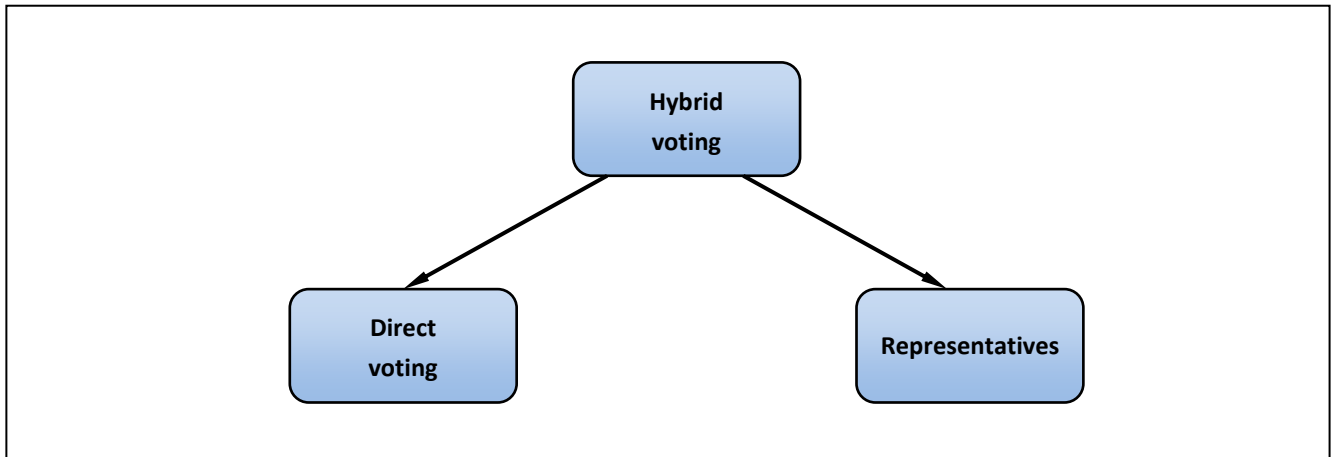
When implementing Liquid Democracy not all of these functionality need to be implemented. In other words Liquid Democracy will work even if only some of the functionalities are implemented. The most important functionalities that should be implemented are those that allow voter to change and override his representative which is covered by first four core functionalities: Hybrid voting, Two step voting, Direct voting and Representatives.

Anonymous Voter

Anonymous Representative

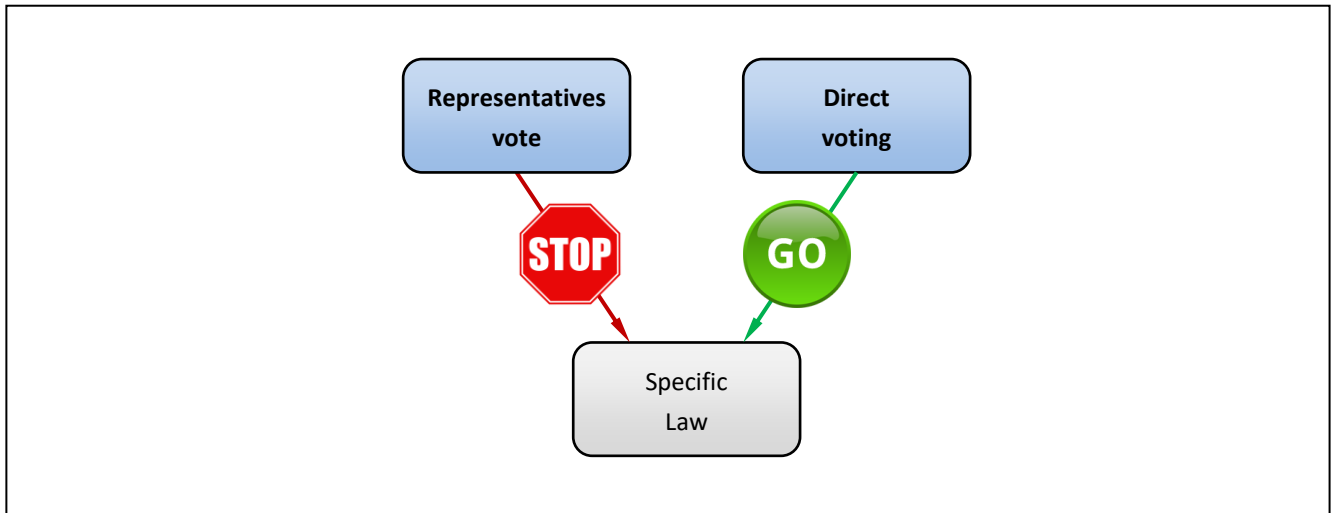


5.1 Hybrid voting



During the Election Day voter can decide to choose his representative anonymously or to register to certain representative by identifying himself. Or it can decide to keep his vote for himself in order to either vote directly for given laws or to choose his representative later. Those who decide to choose their representatives anonymously will do this the same it is done today. Those who choose to register to certain representative would have to be given an account in advanced so that they could such an account to log in into web voting service where they could register their vote to chosen representative. This also allows them to unregister from their representative or re-register to another one as they please and when they please.

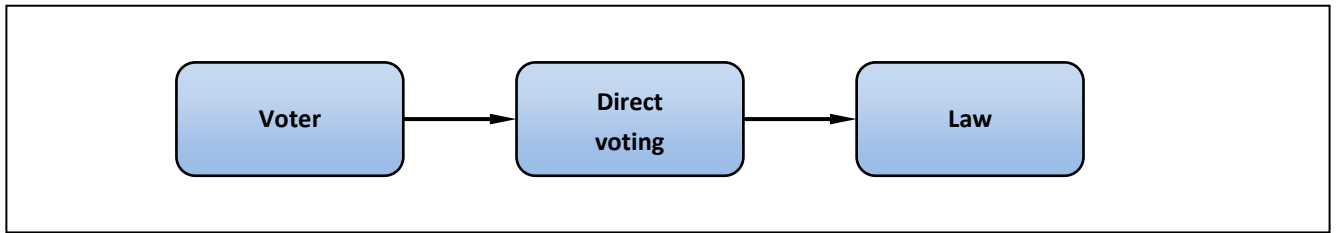
5.2 Two stage voting



To reduce negative influence of corrupted or incompetent politicians liquid democracy introduces two step voting. This means that votes are being cast in two stages. During first stage both Representatives and Voters can cast their votes. But Representatives can cast their votes only during this first stage. In the second stage Representatives can no longer vote. This means that their votes get locked. In this second stage only voters can vote exercising their right for direct voting. Purpose of this second stage is to give voters opportunity to evaluate how have their Representatives voted. In case voter doesn't agree with how his Representative has voted on the matter voter has a opportunity to override his Representative's vote by directly casting his vote.

Here is a simple interpretation of this process. On day one representatives give their votes for a certain law. On day two voters are given opportunity to evaluate how their representatives have voted. If some voter finds that his representative voted against his interest he can choose to override his representative and cast direct vote on the subject. This will effectively reduce the voting power of the representative by one vote for this given law. On day three votes from both representatives and direct votes from voters are collected to calculate if the law passed or not.

5.3 Direct voting

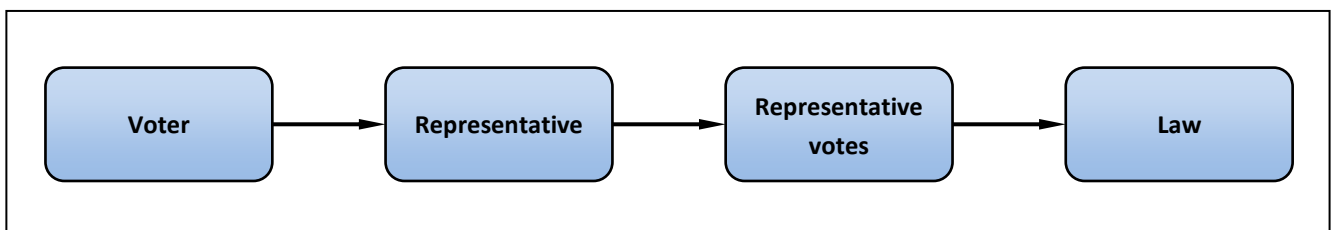


As already mentioned under Hybrid voting, voter can at any moment exercise its right to cast a direct vote on a certain subject. This functionality can be used in three different scenarios.

In first scenario we have a voter which has not chosen any representative. The only way this voter will count if he directly votes on certain issue.

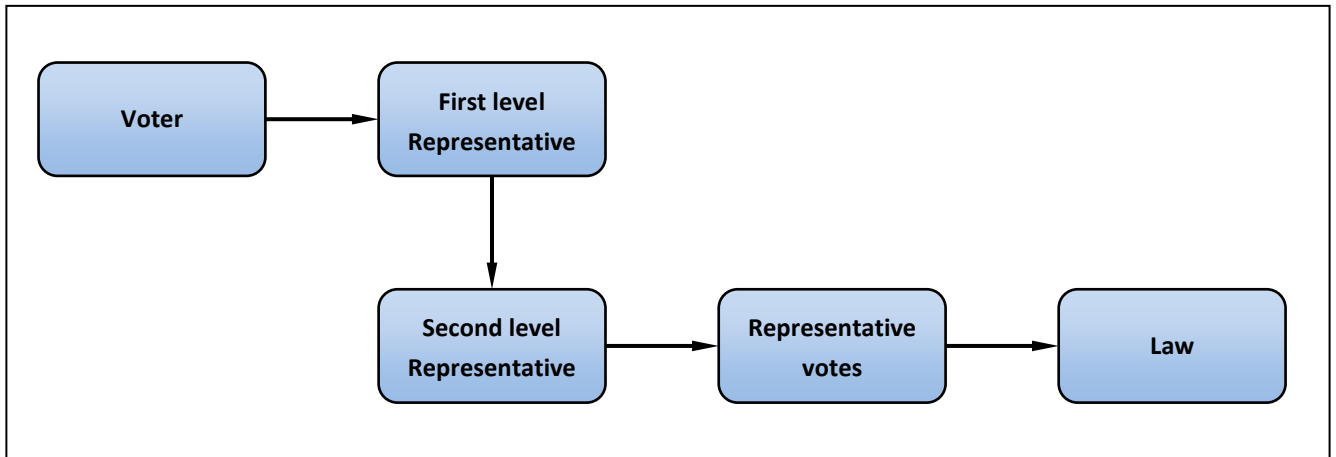
In the second scenario we have a voter that has a representative. But even though he has a representative that can and does vote in his name, such voter can cast a direct vote at any moment. If voter decides to do that than his vote will override the vote of his representative for this one occasion. Such an action might be needed by the voter if his representative forgets to vote on certain subject. But the main intention of this functionality is to prevent representatives to betray their voters by voting against the will of the voter. This functionality allows voter to directly cast his vote after his representative has already voted if voter decides that his representative did not vote in his best interest. This doesn't need to necessary happen because representative might be corrupt. This can also happen if representative have set of goals for which it is voting where most of them are in line with the interest of the voter. So voter will allow its representative to vote instead of him on the issues they agree on but it will override representative's vote on the remaining few issues where their views differ. This way voter is offloading most of the voting to his representative without the need to compromise on his goals.

5.4 Representatives



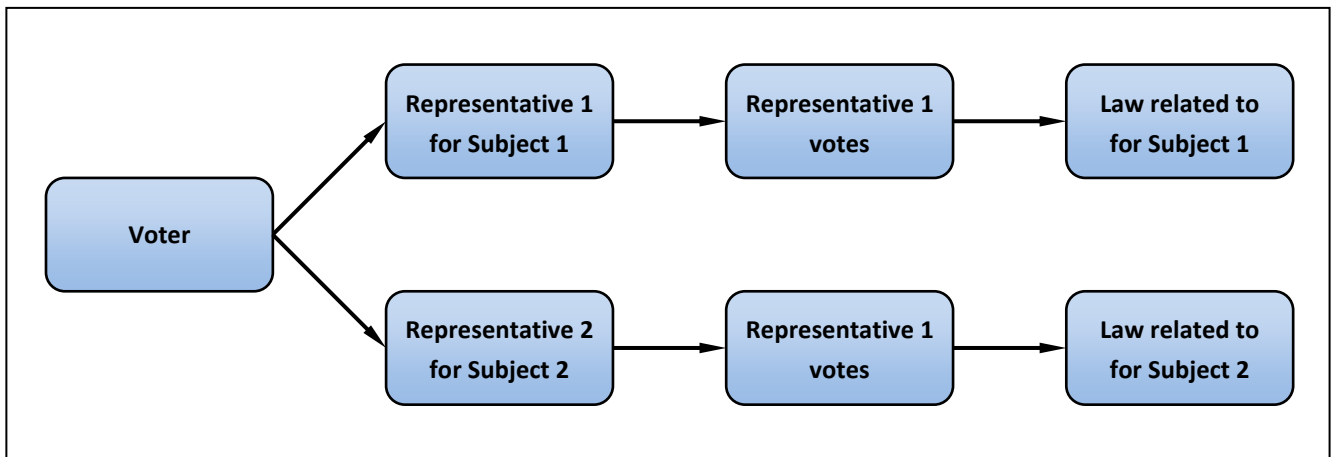
Instead of only registering to specific politician user can register his vote to any other voter. For instance one voter can allow any other voter to use his vote as he pleases. So if person has trust that someone he knows might better decide in his interest he could give him his vote. This vote forwarding can go indefinitely but loops have to be avoided. This principal makes vogue difference between politician and normal person since normal person might in theory have higher worth in votes then official politician. To reflect this, rule can be added that those that are worth more than 100 000 votes have privilege to sit at parliament while others could exercise their voting right remotely from internet.

5.5 Sub Representatives



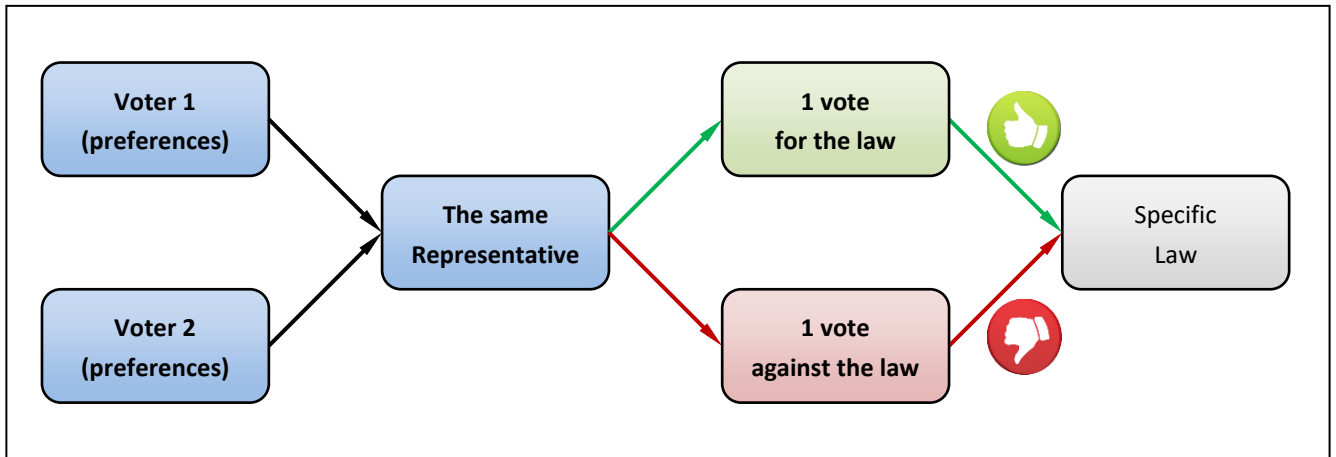
Any Representative can forward its votes to some other representative. In other words Representative can choose its own Representative. This way Representatives that have smaller amount of votes can all select some other Representative which will then have much greater power. Reason for this measure is the first level representative might not be full time politicians but rather just a normal people in which others have put their trust. Since these people might have their own regular jobs and therefore can't afford to spend a lot of time participating in voting they will simply choose their own representatives.

5.6 Multiple representatives



Hybrid democracy, as described in this paper, allows each voter to have multiple representatives, different one for each category. So you might choose representative A to represent you on the subjects of foreign affairs, one that is against entering European Union. You might choose representative B to represent you on the subjects of internal affairs, one that is against forced financing of official television station. And finally you might choose representative C to represent you on the subjects of religion affairs, one that is against church being financed by the state.

5.7 Partial voting



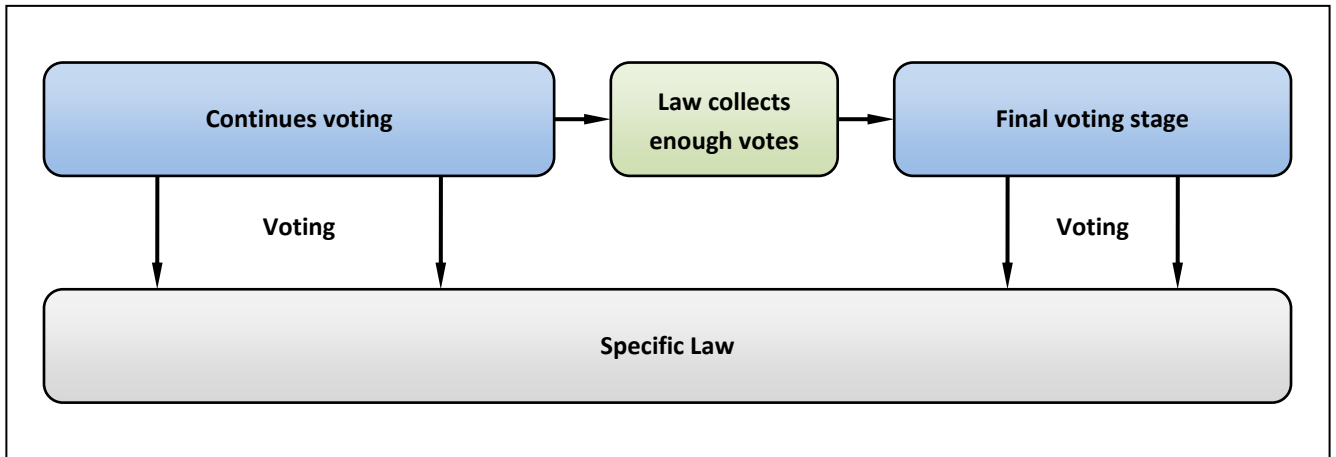
Partial voting **allows Representatives to split their votes** in order to fulfill different preferences of their voters. In other words Representatives do not have to make single decision for all of their votes.

What this means is that during voting procedure representative is not obligated to use all of his votes the same way. He is not forced to give all of his votes for a certain law or all of his votes against the law. Representative can choose to disperse his voting power by for instance using 20% of his votes by voting for the law and then at the same time using remaining 80% of his votes to vote against the same law. This would be perfectly valid if 20% of his voters are farmers and 80% of his voters live in a cities and law is about increasing financial support for farmers which is in best interest of the farmers but it is against the interests of those voters living in a cities.

This functionality makes sense if we go back to the basic idea of a Representative. Idea of representative is to represent best interests of his voters. That doesn't mean that representative must have fixed ideas on certain subjects. Representative is not about what he thinks or wants but what his voters think and want. That means that it is absolutely natural for representative to support diametrically different interests. There is nothing wrong about single representative simultaneously protecting interests of those who think completely differently. For instance single representative might simultaneously represent person who is for European Union and another one who is against it. This means that such representative will take care of his voter by differentiating between his voters and their interests.

This behavior is quite different from the expected behavior of classic Representative where it is expected that Representative shares the same views as his voters and that it always votes the same for all of his voters. But if we start looking at Representatives as professionals that are providing certain service to their voters then there is no more need for Representative to share the same opinions with his voters. Representative is simply offering his expertise to vote based on the provided preferences of his voters where his voters might share completely different views on many of the subjects. Simply think of a lawyer that is defending a criminal. Lawyer knows that his client is guilty and that it should end up in jail. But at the same time lawyer will use his professional knowledge to keep the client out of the jail.

5.8 Continues voting

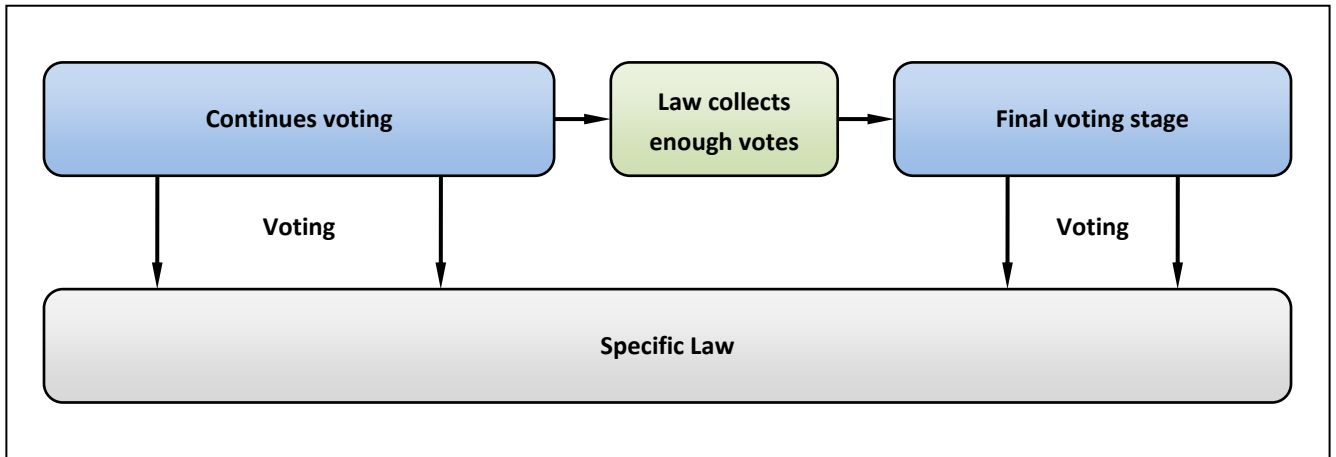


Voting in liquid democracy can also be implemented as continues voting. By continues voting we mean that there is no given time frame inside which votes need to be cast for specific proposal. Instead after proposal is given voters can start voting for it without any time constraints.

Then when certain proposal collects enough votes it goes into final voting stage which will be time constrained, for instance it can last a week. Final voting stage is used as indicator to other voters that certain law has collected majority of votes. This gives other voters opportunity to react before the law is actually accepted. Voters who have voted for this law now have opportunity to retract their vote. Those who were not aware of the law so far have the opportunity to more closely examine it which includes evaluating how their representatives voted on the law. If they are not satisfied how their interests were taken care by their representative concerning this laws they can cast direct vote overriding their representatives vote.

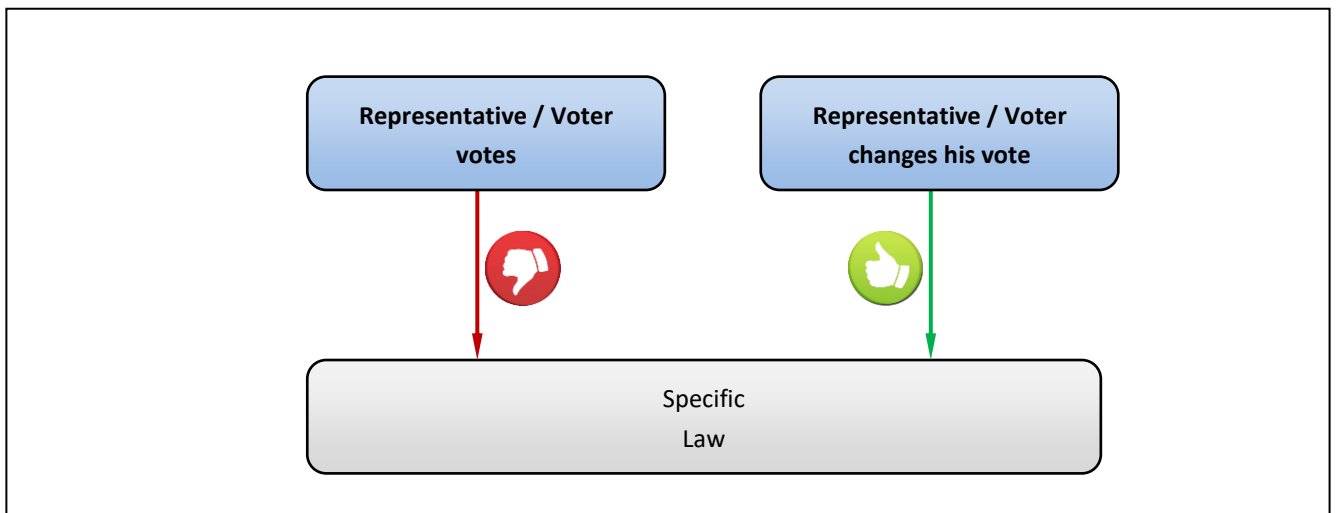
Continues voting functionality allows us to implement referendum that are not time constrained. Current laws that regulate referendum are sometimes written to make referendum as difficult as possible. One way of doing so is to constrain time needed to collect signatures. With Continues voting there will be no time constrain or it can be freely adjusted for longer periods.

5.9 Proposing laws



Liquid Democracy should allow voters and their representatives to freely propose laws so that others can vote on them. This functionality would allow us to have cheap and effective referendums where people can propose their own laws without having to go through corrupt representatives which otherwise might never decide to put certain law for voting.

5.10 Changing vote



Ability to change the way you have voted is another very important feature of Liquid Democracy. This is especially important in connection with continues voting when new information might arise after the vote has already been cast but before the voting procedure ends. This allows both voters and their representative to change their mind about certain issued as new information sees the light.

6 Benefits of Liquid Democracy compared to Representative Democracy

This chapter explains how different problems characteristic for representative democracy can be solved by Liquid democracy simply by introducing elements of direct democracy.

Improvement over classic representative democracy

SOLUTION
Overrides corrupted voting
Reduces influence of corrupted or incompetent representatives
Reduces corruption among representatives
Decreases influence of interest groups
Avoids compromising voter's interests
Improves representation for new topics
Allows voters to change their minds
Classic representative democracy is unconstitutional
Disperses voting power

6.1 Overrides corrupted voting



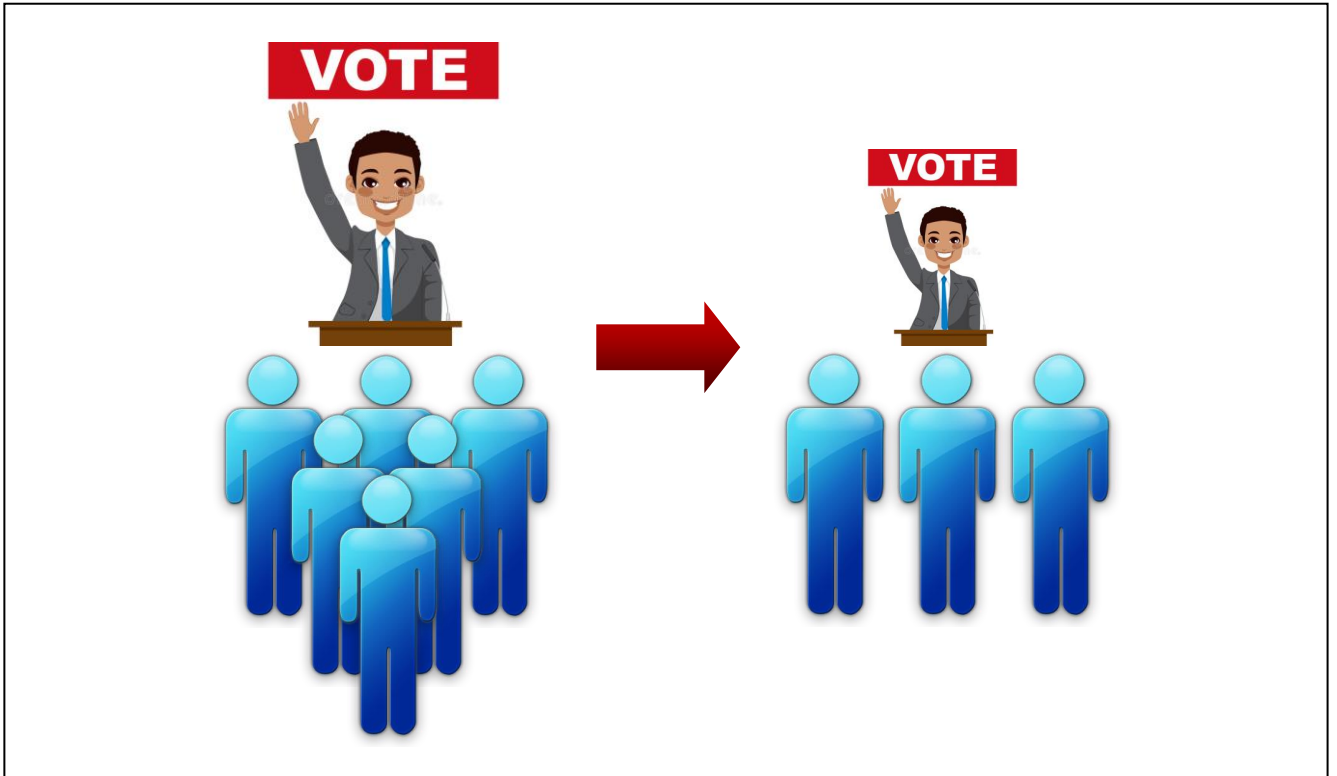
One of the most powerful mechanisms of Liquid Democracy is the ability to prevent corrupted representatives from casting a vote that is against the interest of their voters. More precisely corrupted representatives can still vote against the interest of their voters but voters have the ability to override such vote by practicing direct democracy. This mechanism prevents corrupted representatives to do any damage.

In a current system there is nothing that can prevent corrupted representatives from voting against the will of their voters. In best case scenario voters can decide to change their representative only after the damage has already been done. And usually they have to wait many years until the next election. During this period corrupted representatives can continue voting against the will of their voters completely unchallenged.

This is achieved through two step voting as described in one of previous chapters. In its simplest form two step voting might look like as follows. On day one representatives give their votes for certain law. On day two voters are given opportunity to evaluate how their representatives have voted. If some voter finds that his representative voted against his interest he can choose to override his representative and cast direct vote on the subject. This will effectively reduce the voting power of the representative by one vote for this given law. On day three votes from both representatives and direct votes from voters are collected to calculate if the law passed or not.

So if a group of politicians just received hefty fee from bankers to vote that country should take new credit with super high interests voters will get opportunity to neutralize their votes and directly cast their votes against such initiative before any damage gets done.

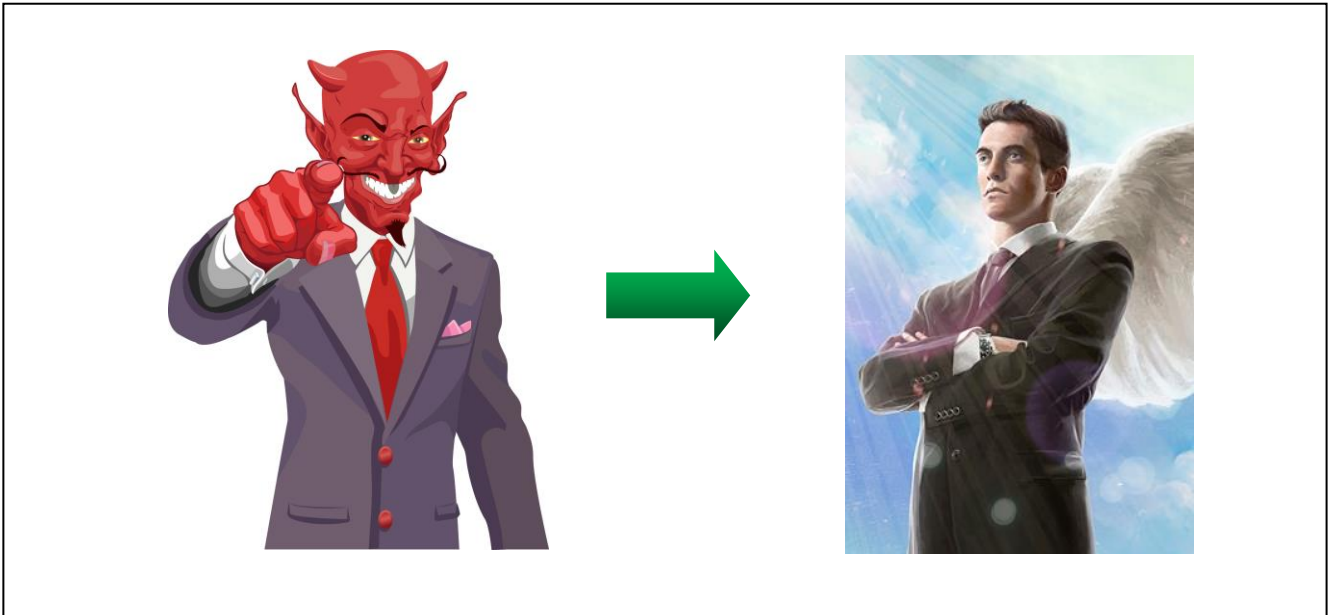
6.2 Reduces influence of corrupted representatives



If for some reason voter fails to override vote that was given by corrupted representative against the interests of the voter, Liquid Democracy has another mechanisms which can be used to effectively reduce influence of such corrupted representatives in order to prevent any future damage. After the voting ends and the damage is already done voter can immediately change his representative, as soon as voter gets information that he was betrayed by his representative. This can completely prevent any future damage because such corrupted representative will no longer be able to cast votes that are against the interests of the voter. Liquid Democracy allows rapid response to corrupted activity.

This is in sharp contrast to what we currently have in classic representative democracy. As already mentioned in the previous chapter in a current system there is nothing that can prevent corrupted representatives from repeatedly voting against the will of their voters. Instead voters have to wait many years until the next election. During this period corrupted representatives can continue voting against the will of their voters completely unchallenged.

6.3 Reduces corruption among representatives



Two mechanisms described in the previous two chapters can be a great motivations for representatives not to become corrupted in the first place. By simply having a mechanism that allows voters to override votes of their representatives and by enabling voters to quickly change their representatives creates big incentive for representatives not to become corrupted. In other words it is very likely that these two mechanisms would rarely need to be used at all. Their main power lies in the fact that they are available and that fact alone should be enough to have much less corruption among representatives under Liquid Democracy. We can easily imagine that Liquid Democracy will probably look a lot like current classic representative democracy with one big difference. We would have far less corrupt representatives since corruption would no longer pay. We would have functional representative democracy being closely watched by direct democracy waiting to get into action. By knowing that their actions can be sanctioned at any given moment by a simple click of button we can presume that that should motivate representatives to do their job as intended by the theory of representative democracy.

Representative in Liquid Democracy should be constantly aware of the following: "Do your job and let us do ours or else we will reduce your voting power to zero and no bank, lobby or industry will ever be interested in bribing you."

For classic representative democracy corrupted representatives have become a rule rather than exception. The same can be said for incompetent representatives. This might come as surprise but it is to be expected because it is not in basic human nature to care for the interests of others but rather for their own personal interests. It is rather unfortunate that representative democracy is based on the assumption that people care about each other when the fact is that most care only about themselves. People usually care about others only if that serves their interests. Without going any further in rather numerous mistakes on which representative democracy is based this argument alone should be enough to predict that such political system is destined to produce non-functioning corrupted society. And when such corruption is left alone without sanctions, as is the case in most countries with representative democracy, results are what we are faced with every day. This is where liquid democracy comes into play.

6.4 Decreases influence of interest groups



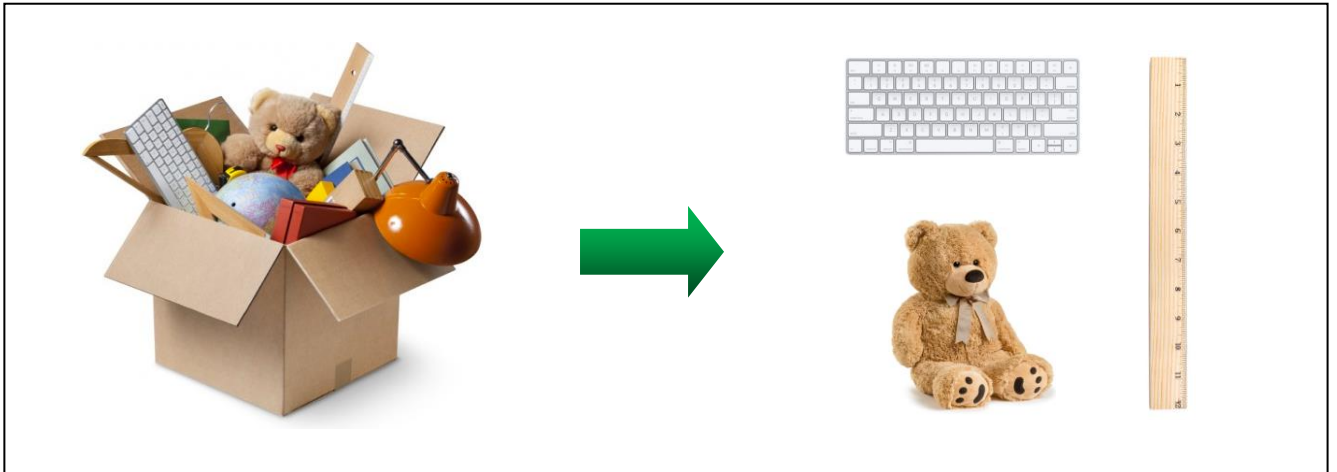
In classic democracy **interest groups have far greater influence in decision making process** than the actual voters. Actually we can say that influence of the voters on decision making process is negligible and that all decisions are actually made in the interest of different interest groups. This is usually covered by presenting those interests as common interest.

Following mechanisms of Liquid Democracy can greatly decrease such influence of interest groups. As already discussed in previous chapters ability to override corrupt votes and ability to easily change corrupt representatives will make it much harder for interest groups to persuade representatives to betray their voters.

Additionally by having voting power dispersed among greater number of representatives makes it much more difficult to bribe all those representatives compared to current situation where you just need to bribe few representatives where all the power is being concentrated.

And lastly Liquid Democracy allows both voters and representatives to be anonymous if Liquid Democracy is implemented in this way. This should allow representatives to more freely take care of the interest of their voter without the fear of being threatened or blackmailed in some way.

6.5 Avoids compromising voter's interests



One of the problems of current representative democracy is that you are **forced to select set of interests** that best suits your need instead of making sure that all of your interests are being taken care no meter how diverse they might be. This is result of the fact that each voter can choose only one representative, either person or political party, which has defined set of interests as defined by their political program. So by choosing whom to give your vote you are forced to make a compromise by selecting program that best suits your interests but probably not completely.

For instance you might be against state financing the church, against entering European union and against forced financing of official television station. If there is no single representative whose program contains all three of these interests you might decide to choose representative which agrees on most of these points. So you will choose representative which is against European Union and against forced financing of official television station but who is fighting that church gets even more funds from the state. Such representative is not representing you interests in the fullest. In fact it is actually going against your interests by actively working on increasing financial aid to the church. Liquid democracy easily solves this problem in multiple ways.

Liquid democracy allows you to choose from **wider range of representatives** since every voter can be a representative. This increases the chance of finding representative that covers most of your interests. You are no longer bound to just few political parties that usually have similar political programs.

Liquid democracy also allows each voter to have **multiple representatives**, different one for each category. So you might choose representative A to represent you on the subjects of foreign affairs (one that is against entering European Union). You might choose representative B to represent you on the subjects of internal affairs (one that is against forced financing of official television station). And finally you might choose representative C to represent you on the subjects of religion affairs (one that is against church being financed by the state).

Liquid democracy also allows you to **submit your preferences** when choosing a representative. You can simply tell your representative how do you want to be represented. Such representative can have voters with different sets of preferences and can use its expertise to vote in line with the interests of all of his voters no meter how diverse their interests might be.

Additionally by allowing you to **override representative's vote**, Liquid democracy allows you to choose the same political party as you would in the current system but without compromising any of your interests. Instead you can simply allow your representative to cast a vote for every subject you agree upon and then you can override your representative's vote on other subjects that you don't agree upon.

Or you can simply choose not to have representative at all and practice **direct democracy** instead. This way you can make sure that your vote is always in line with your will.

6.6 Improves representation for new topics



Often certain **subjects can arise which were not covered by political programs** of representatives and political parties during the election period. For instance recession might hit the country requiring swift response but representatives might not know how to best represent their voters on that matter since recession was not part of their program and voters were not being given the opportunity to choose what they think is the best way to fight recession. To make things even worse not all of their voters might share the same idea how to fight recession meaning that whatever action representative takes to fight recession it might be against interests of big part of their voters.

Once again liquid democracy can easily solve this problem in different ways. Voter can change his representatives every time new subject arises which was not being considered during initial elections.

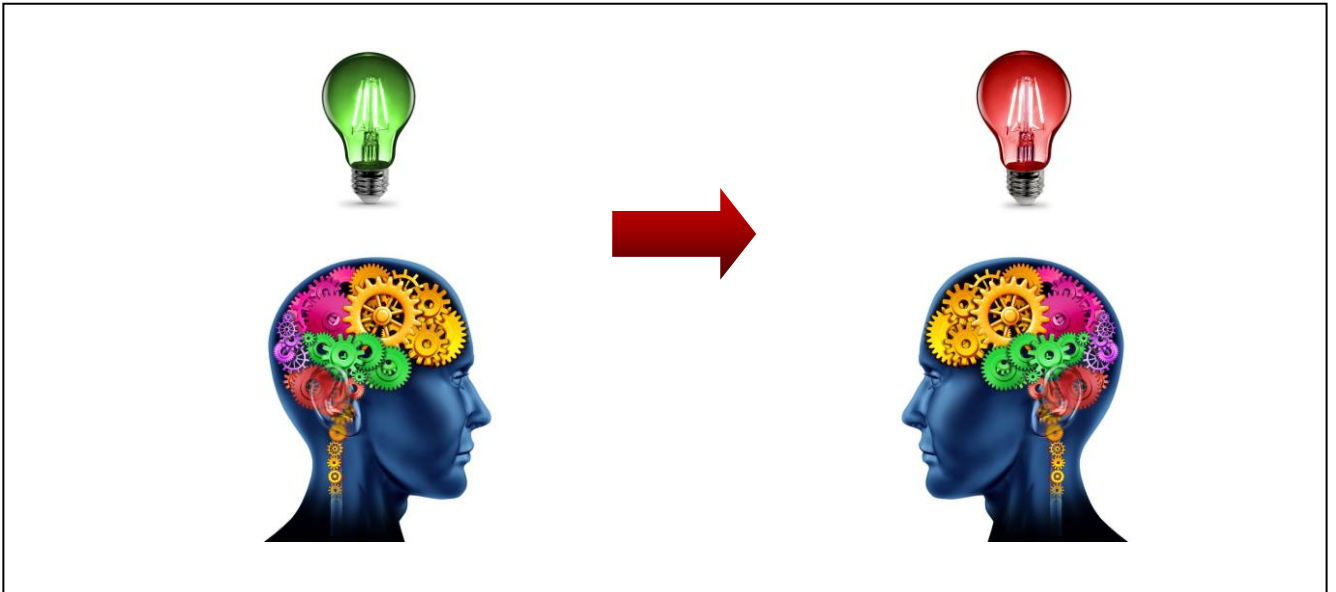
Voter can change his preferences for his current representative.

Voter can continue using current representative while overriding representative's vote for these new topic.

Or if voter is using pure direct democracy it can easily take care of the new topics by casting direct votes.

This is another good example of liquid democracy providing rapid response for highly dynamic environment we all live in order to ensure that voters interests are best taken care off.

6.7 Allows voters to change their minds



Classic Representative Democracy has **no mechanisms which allows voters to change their mind** about certain subjects. Or more precisely voter can change his mind every few years during next elections. This means that even if his representative is doing everything that was promised during election campaign, such representative might still not protect best interests of his voter, if his voter has changed his mind on certain subjects. Without ability to change his representative or to inform him about his changed interests such voter is left to helplessly watch his representative working against his best interests.

Liquid Democracy solves this problem through different mechanisms already mentioned in previous chapter. With ability to change representatives, override representative vote or simply use direct democracy voter is free to change his mind as many time as he wants without fear that his interest will no longer be taken care off.

6.8 Classic representative democracy is unconstitutional



If your constitution contains line that goes something like this: "All people should have equal rights." then classic representative democracy becomes unconstitutional due to **election threshold**. In order for a representative to become elected he needs to pass election threshold. For example only representatives that have collected more than 5% of the votes are allowed to become representatives. Such election threshold also goes against the mentioned constitutional right because voter whose representative did not pass that 5% election threshold will not have any representative in the upcoming years. This is unconstitutional because now we have voters that do have representatives and voters that don't have representatives. In such situation we cannot talk about equal rights any more. Liquid democracy solves this problem by not having election threshold. This allows every voter to have his representative with disregard of how many voters representative might have.

6.9 Disperses voting power



Even if ignore the problem from the previous chapter and assume that all voters have their representatives we would still be facing great voting discrimination. This is because we would have **minority of people (representatives) having exclusive right to choose laws**. At the same time we would have majority of people who have absolutely no influence in choosing laws. This results in heavy discrimination that also goes against the constitution.

The extend of the discrimination becomes even more apparent if you take into consideration that representatives are in no way obligated to fulfil their promises given to the voters during the election period. During the election period it is allowed for representatives to promise whatever pops in their mind or whatever they think might win them most votes but once the election is over they don't have to fulfil any of the given promises and usually continue making decisions that have nothing to do with given program presented during election period. All of this makes it impossible for majority to have any kind of influence on setting up the rules upon which society should function. This majority is completely shut down and have absolutely no influence on meters that directly and greatly influence their lives. Counter argument that voters can choose different representatives during next elections false apart if we presume that there are no honest representatives and that usually voters are forced to choose between lesser evil. Basically representative democracy, as it is implemented currently in most countries, allows voters to choose between different wolves that will eat away voters prosperity. Or to simply put it: "Representative democracy is freedom to elect our own dictators."

Hybrid democracy vastly reduces discrimination which exists in representative democracy by increasing number of people that have direct influence on political matters from few dozens to millions. Discrimination might still exist compared to people which don't have internet access or are not enough technically literate to use modern communication technologies to practice liquid democracy. But number of such people is reduced year after year and in near future internet access and skills needed to use it would become widespread and normal as reading and writing are in current days.

6.10 Allows voters to practice preferred voting system



Liquid Democracy allows voters to choose how they want to govern themselves. It doesn't impose the same political system to everyone. In other words allows people who believe in direct democracy to practice direct democracy. At the same time it allows people who prefer representative democracy to practice representative democracy. And usage of both of these methods is equally simple. With Liquid Democracy political system can easily change from direct to representative democracy and vice versa and anywhere in between. It allows those who are not willing to change their behavior to continue to participate in political life the way they are used to by exclusively practicing representative democracy.

We can compare this to classic representative democracy where there are also mechanisms for direct democracy, mainly through referendum. But in classic representative democracy these two methods are not on equal footing. Practicing direct democracy is usually made much more difficult and much more expensive. This means that on paper voters are given mechanisms for direct democracy but in reality this is very difficult to achieve. For instance usually when group of people starts an initiative for referendum we can hear counter arguments that referendum is too expensive and that therefore those people should reconsider it. If they nevertheless continue in their initiative they are often confronted with unrealistic time needed to collect votes, unrealistic number of votes that needs to be collected, big expenses needed to collect votes and other more subtle obstacles like not being able to get proper number and location of places for collecting votes. Liquid Democracy resolves all of these problems by making referendum cost free and giving voters simple and easy access to support referendum.

7 Criticism of Liquid Democracy

This chapter presents different criticisms of Liquid Democracy.

7.1 Over voting minorities

Since hybrid democracy heavily relies on direct democracy first criticism is usually fear of majority over voting the minority. It seems that most people are confused that such event is not possible in representative democracy. This is of course wrong. In representative democracy majority can over vote minority as simple as in direct democracy. The only difference is that in representative democracy such event would happen in two phases while in direct democracy it will happen in one phase. In representative democracy nothing prevents majority to give their votes to the same representative or political party which will then over vote representatives of minority.

In representative democracy minorities are not protected by any property of representative democracy. Instead they are protected by additional set of laws which give certain rights to minorities which can't be over voted by majority. Such laws prevent majority to vote that certain group should leave country or be forbidden to exercise their religion. The same set of laws could be used in hybrid or direct democracy to prevent minorities so in this sense hybrid democracy does not present danger to the minorities any more that representative democracy does.

7.2 Discrimination

Some critics believe that people without internet or enough technical knowledge would be discriminated compared to others who could constantly practice direct democracy through modern communication technologies. This is completely true. And although such people would still have their representatives, chosen every few years on the election day, they certainly wouldn't have as much influence as others. Such discrimination, while it would still exist, it would be far less reaching compared to discrimination that exists in classic representative democracy where all decisions are being made by only few politicians. Liquid democracy vastly reduces discrimination which exists in representative democracy by increasing number of people that have direct influence on political matters from few dozens to millions.