
How Should We Determine the Value of an Individual in Society?

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Introduction: The Flaws of Democracy and Modern Solutions

Democracy, as one of humanity's most celebrated governance systems, has proven resilient and adaptable over centuries. Yet, it is not without flaws. One of its most pressing challenges lies in its inherent equality in representation, where every vote carries the same weight, regardless of an individual's contributions or impact on society. This raises questions about fairness, efficiency, and justice in decision-making.

In an age dominated by technological advancements, we now have the tools to revisit and enhance democracy. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and big data analytics provide opportunities to create a more participatory governance model that values contributions beyond mere suffrage. By leveraging these tools, we can redefine electoral processes to be more representative of individual productivity, societal contributions, and ethical conduct.

Can Democracy Be Reformed Using Algorithms and Modern Technologies?

In contemporary democratic systems, the vote of a university professor holds the same weight as that of an uneducated individual. Similarly, the vote of a mother who has successfully raised a generation of competent individuals is equal to the vote of a drug addict. A judge's voice carries no more weight than that of a criminal. Does this truly represent fairness and social justice?

Should the strength of an electoral voice depend solely on one's eligibility to vote, or should it reflect an individual's active contributions to society through productivity, culture, and social engagement?

To address this question, we must develop a multifaceted framework for determining the value of an individual's electoral voice. This framework could incorporate criteria such as productivity, social and cultural contributions, scientific value, and ethical commitment. In doing so, we can introduce a more comprehensive and equitable representation system tailored to our digital era, where citizens are increasingly empowered to participate in governance through modern communication technologies and social networks.

Rethinking Democratic Participation: Beyond Equality

The principles of fair voting and citizen participation are foundational to any democratic system. However, justice in voting demands more than simply listing individuals on an electoral registry. It requires recognizing the deeper societal contributions of citizens. Criteria such as economic productivity, cultural impact, and moral responsibility can serve as benchmarks for categorizing the strength of an electoral voice.

This approach strikes a delicate balance between individual rights and the collective good, offering improved decision-making processes that reduce marginalization and enhance fairness.

Participatory Governance in the Digital Age

Traditional democratic systems, rooted in the equal distribution of power among individuals and institutions, must adapt to the rapid changes of the modern world. This calls for a new participatory governance model that leverages digital tools to ensure fairness and inclusivity. Such a model seeks to address the shortcomings of conventional democracy by aligning it with the requirements of active citizen engagement in societal management.

Key Features of Participatory Governance:

1. Justice in Representation:

Democracy should reflect the value an individual brings to society. Technologies can evaluate and quantify these contributions through reliable and unbiased metrics.

2. A Philosophical Foundation:

This model integrates principles from ancient philosophies and modern democratic ideals. Similar to Plato's emphasis on wisdom in leadership and Kant's focus on ethical transparency, participatory governance fosters a dynamic relationship between citizens and institutions.

3. Technological Integration:

Advanced digital tools, including blockchain for transparency and AI for data analysis, can enable secure and fair electoral systems. Platforms for public deliberation and decision-making further democratize participation.

4. Multidimensional Evaluation Criteria:

Beyond voting rights, this system emphasizes the individual's role in economic productivity, cultural enrichment, and ethical conduct, ensuring a more equitable allocation of electoral influence.

Implementing Participatory Governance:
Frameworks and Challenges

Framework for Redefining Electoral Strength

1. Data Collection:

Collect data on individuals' contributions, including:

Economic: Income, professional achievements, and entrepreneurship.

Social: Volunteerism and community support activities.

Cultural: Efforts in education, arts, and public awareness.

2. Weight Allocation:

Assign points to each criterion based on its societal impact:

Economic Productivity: Contribution to national economic growth.

Social Impact: Involvement in charitable or developmental initiatives.

Cultural Value: Promoting education, culture, and ethical standards.

3. Composite Scoring:

Use a weighted formula to calculate an individual's electoral strength:

$$F = w_1 \times E + w_2 \times S + w_3 \times C$$

Where:

F = Electoral strength.

E = Economic contribution.

S = Social engagement.

C = Cultural and ethical value.

w_1, w_2, w_3 = Assigned weights based on societal priorities.

4. Adjusting Electoral Votes:

High-scoring individuals could receive multiple votes (e.g., 3-5 votes).

Lower-scoring individuals would retain a single vote, preserving their democratic rights.

Anticipated Challenges

While theoretically promising, this system presents practical hurdles:

Digital Inequality: Disparities in technology access may exclude certain populations.

Privacy Concerns: Collecting personal data must adhere to ethical standards.

Cultural Differences: Defining universal criteria for electoral strength can be complex.

Infrastructure Requirements: Implementing digital frameworks requires significant investment.

Potential Benefits:

Despite these challenges, the proposed model offers transformative advantages:

Fairer Representation: Ensuring that societal contributors have a proportional influence.

Transparency: Reducing political manipulation through objective metrics.

Enhanced Participation: Encouraging individuals to actively contribute to societal development.

Strengthened Democracy: Aligning democratic systems with modern participatory values.

Towards a Sustainable Participatory Democracy

By integrating advanced technologies with democratic principles, we can reimagine governance systems to better reflect the values and contributions of individuals. This participatory approach not only addresses the limitations of traditional democracy but also fosters a culture of accountability, inclusivity, and shared responsibility.

The future of democracy lies in its ability to evolve, embracing tools and philosophies that empower citizens while ensuring justice and equity for all.

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