

Voting Demonstration 2: *the safe seat*

There are two major parties, the Safe Seat Party and the Opposition Party and a third the Minority Party which has never won enough seats to gain power.

This constituency has been a safe seat for the Safe Seat Party for some time but the majority has fallen and the Opposition party has been gaining ground in the polls!

There are four candidates standing:

Adams: Minority Party

Brown: Safe Seat Party

Clark: Opposition Party

Davis: Independent Safe Seat Party

Brown is the official and, until this election, the only Safe Seat candidate. His supporters regard him as "safe" as he reliably votes for the party line. However he rarely attends debates and has not spoken in one for some years. He has a reputation of being "not very helpful" to constituents and shows little interest in local issues.

Davis is articulate, intelligent and capable. He is respected by his opponents and gets involved in local issues. Until this election he has been a loyal member of the Safe Seat Party, so his decision to stand against his own party is shocking. Brown is particularly incensed.

1

You are a disillusioned voter and have a particular dislike of Brown. You have only decided to vote at all this time because Davis is standing against him. Your choices: first Davis 1, second Adams 2 and third Clark 3 is the order in which you think they are less bad than Brown 4.

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You are a Minority Party supporter so your first choice goes to Adams 1, You are opposed to the values of the Safe Seat party so your second choice is for Clark 2, however you recognize the qualities of Davis 3 and make him your third choice. Brown 4 comes last

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2

You support the Safe Seat Party, and you think that Davis 1 would be a far better member than Brown. You judge that he will not get much support but make him your first choice, Your second choice is Brown 2 so that, in the likely event of Davis getting eliminated, your vote is still for your party. Adams 3 is your third choice. Last is Clark 4.

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You are a Opposition Party supporter and very opposed to the values of the Safe Seat Party, so your first choice is for Clark 1 and your second is for Adams 2. You make Davis 3 your third choice because you see him as a better person than Brown 4.

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You support the Safe Seat Party You see Davis as a traitor to the party, so your first choice has to be for the official candidate, Brown 1. However Davis does support your views, so, reluctantly, Davis 2 is your second choice and Adams 3 your third choice with *that* dreadful Opposition candidate Clark 4 last.

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