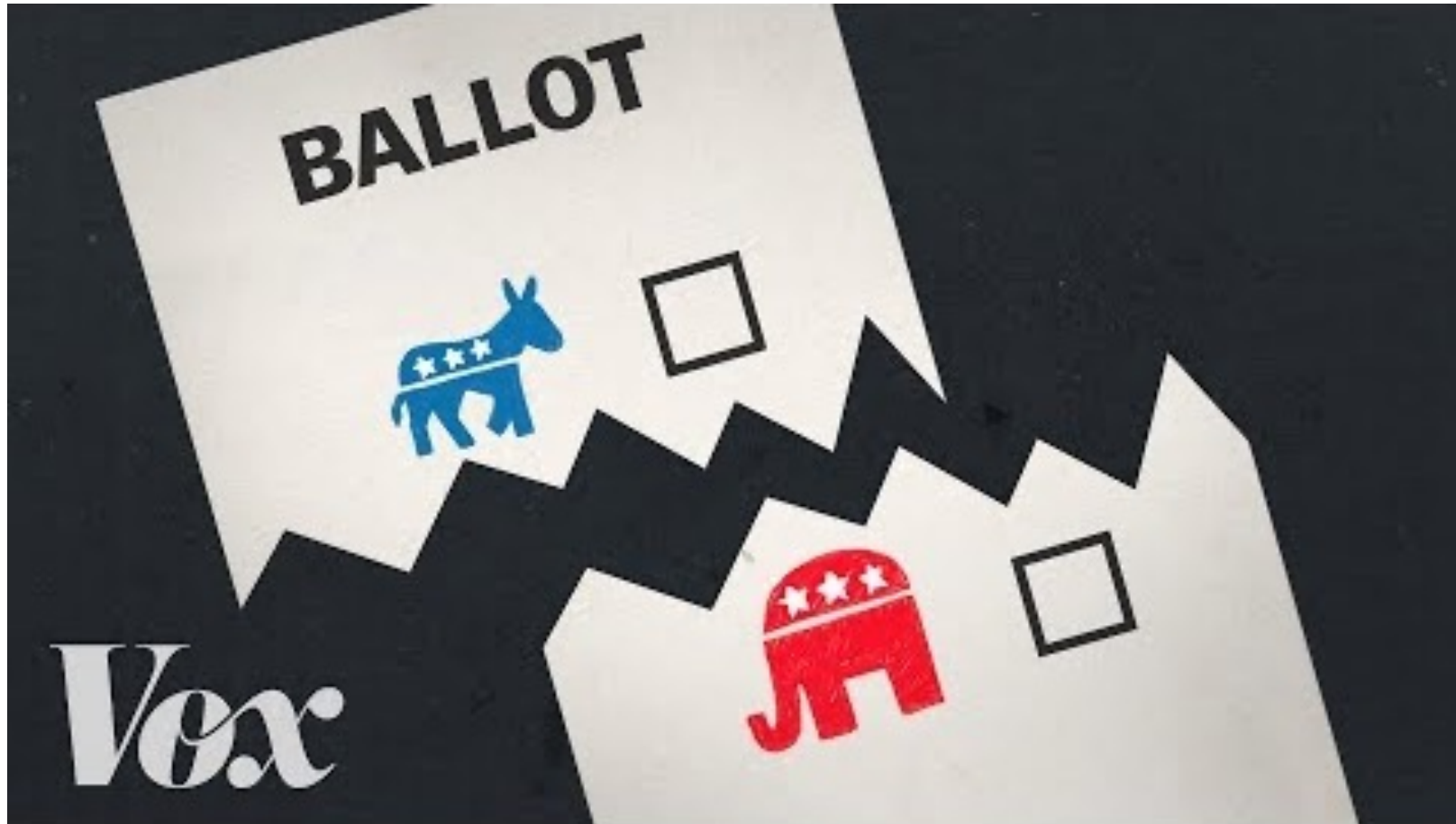


Ranked Choice Voting

OLLI 2020

Trisha Crowley

Issues with 2 party system.

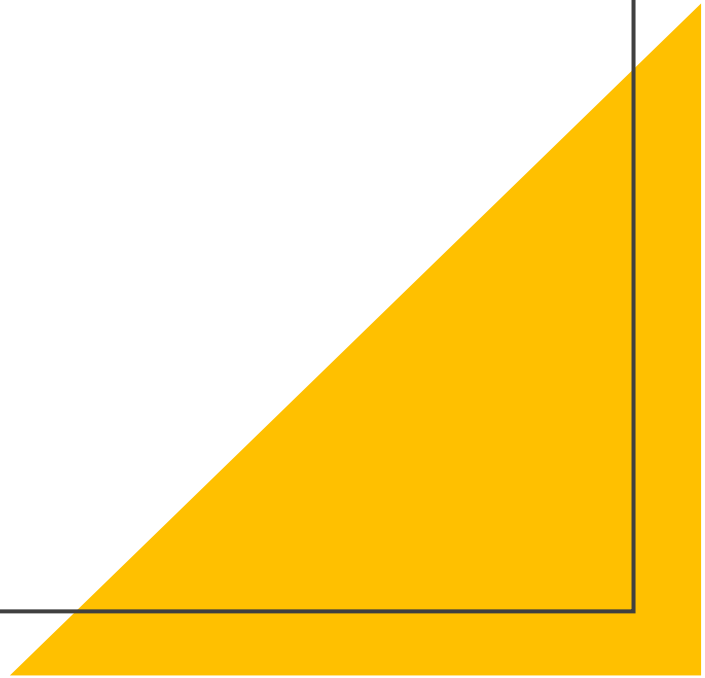


Many Different Ideas for what's wrong



Do we need to change
our current system of
plurality winners?

Discussion- Single Winner
Elections



First-Past-The-Post



Problems Described

- Minority winners
- Inevitably results in 2 party system
- Discourages voting for desired candidate because of fear of spoiler effect
- Because of spoiler effect, lesser preferred candidate can win when votes for similar candidates are split
- Combined with closed or semi-closed primaries, gives extreme partisan primary voters control over candidates

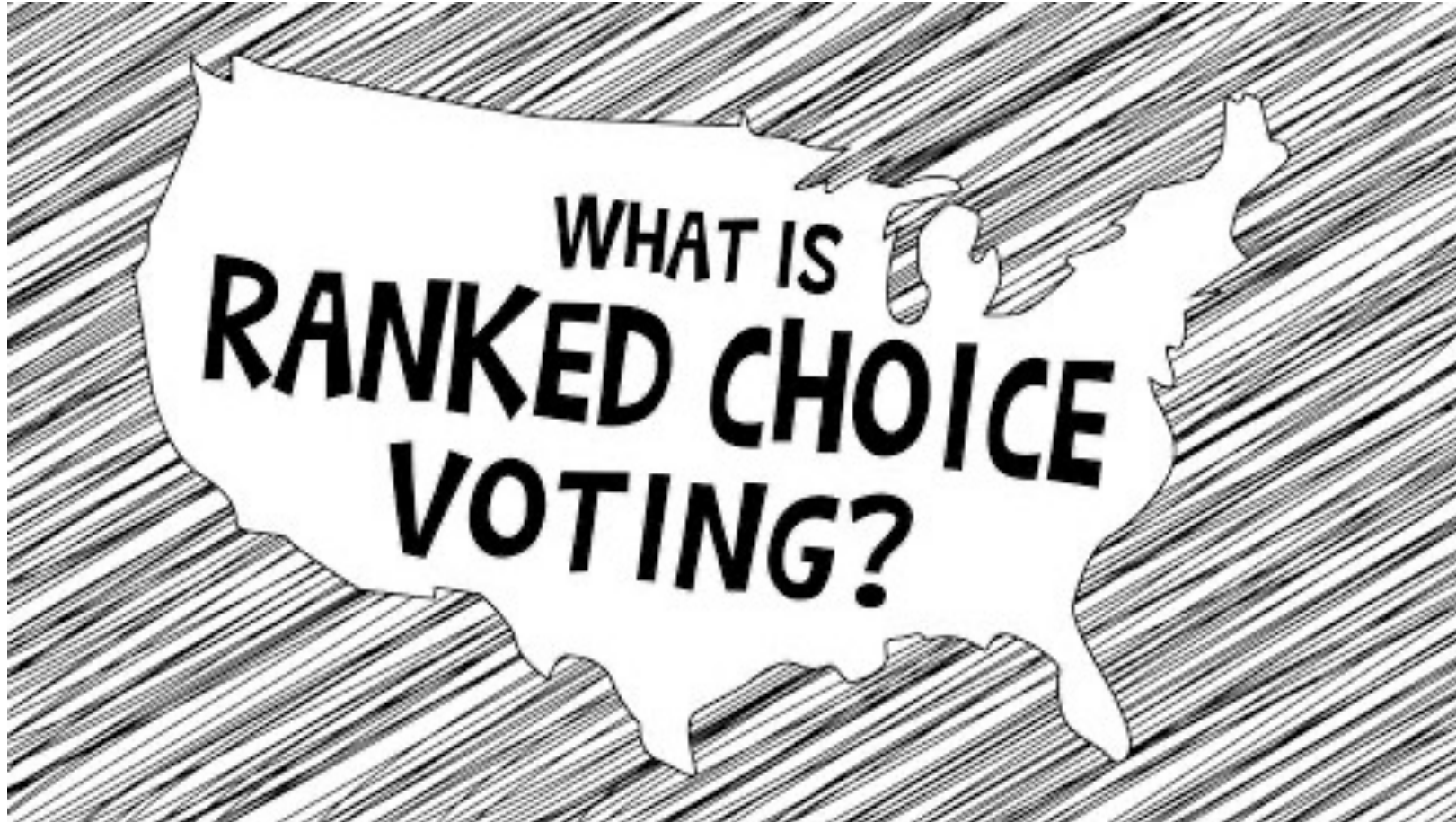
Preferential Voting Systems

- There are numerous preferential voting systems used in different countries around the world
- Some use the same name for slightly different systems
- Some of the names:
 - Ranked Choice Voting
 - Instant Runoff Voting
 - Alternative Vote
 - Single Transferable Vote

Alternative Voting



Let's try it again



RCV or Instant Runoff

- Used in Australia for over 100 years
- There are ways to make the counting simpler, but all computer voting systems now being sold can handle instant runoff
- Proponents claim it reduces negative campaigning because candidates need to attract 2nd choice votes
- Use in US increasing- Maine used it for Presidential elections this year
- If used in early voting, voters still have a voice even if their top choice drops out before the counting- especially useful in primaries
- Doesn't require constitutional change, can be adopted gradually

Most citizens don't have trouble understanding the process



What are the
advantages
claimed for
Ranked Choice
Voting over
First-Past-the-
Post?

- Less need to vote strategically – no spoiler effect
- In FPTP, voters tend to vote for “lesser of two evils” instead of preferred candidate
- Need for majority winner, better reflects preferences for voters

Alaska Just passed Instant Runoff

Passed as a referendum,
in combination with
restrictions on dark
money and top 4 open
primaries



Are you persuaded?

- What problem are we trying to fix?
- Any downsides ?



Some of the more
technical issues

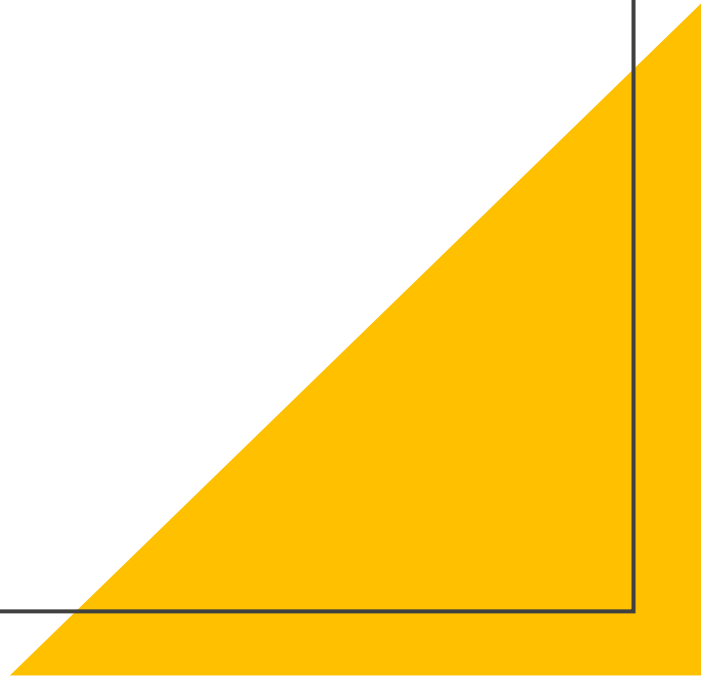


What criteria could we use to evaluate the system

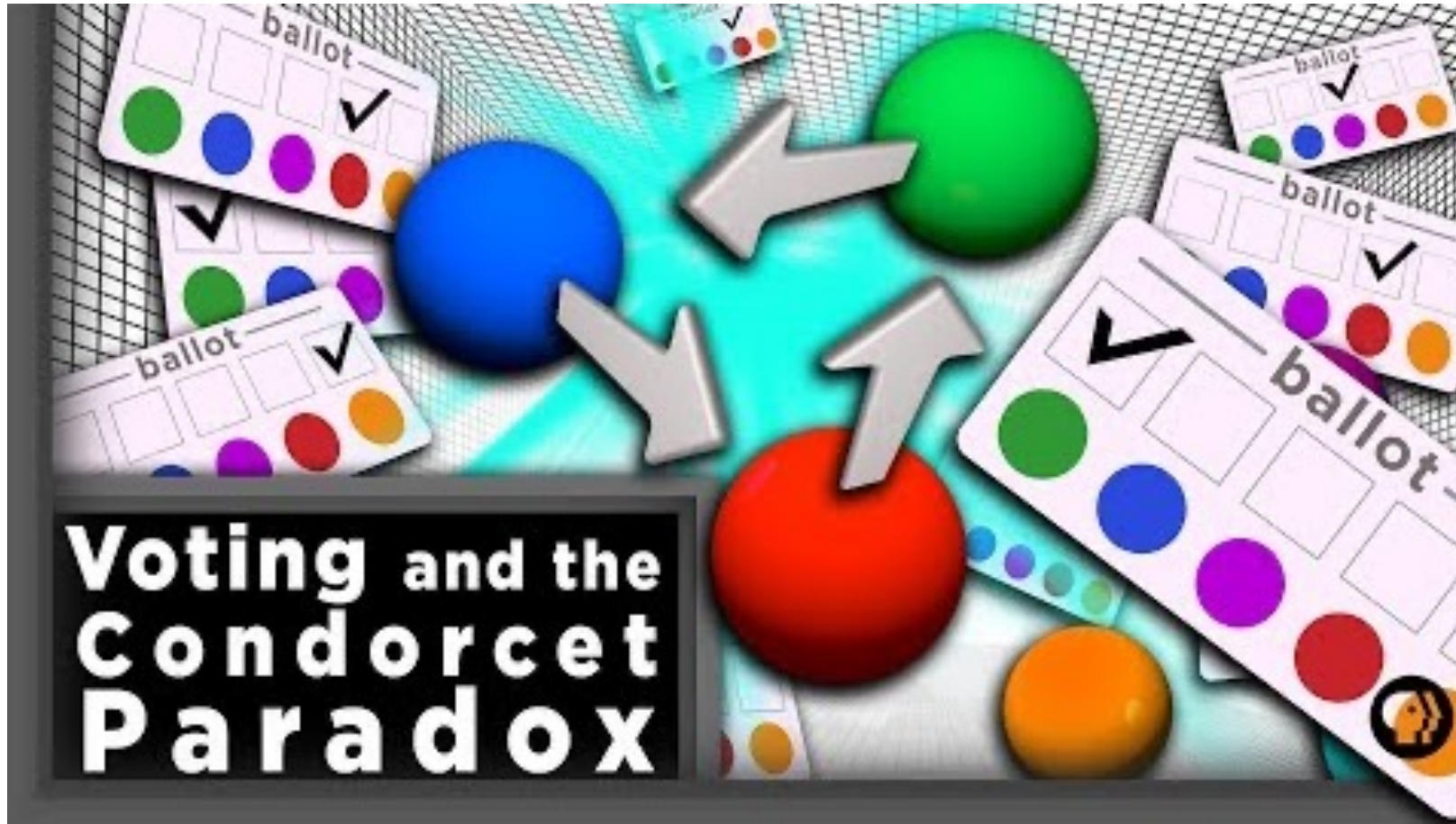
- Social Choice Theory

Some suggested criteria

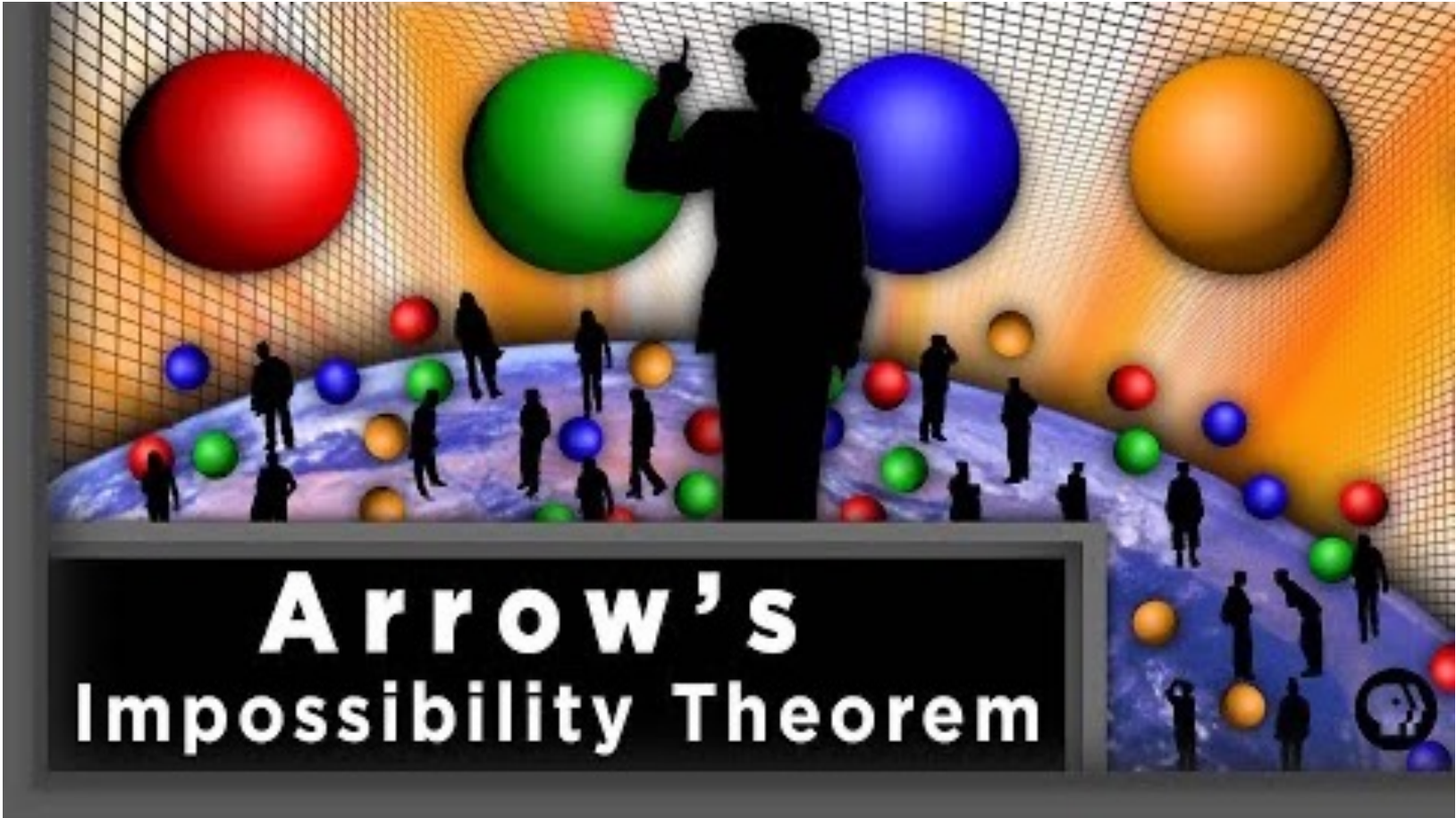
- Avoids Condorcet losers
- Chooses Condorcet winners
- Is resistant to manipulation via strategic voting
- Simplicity

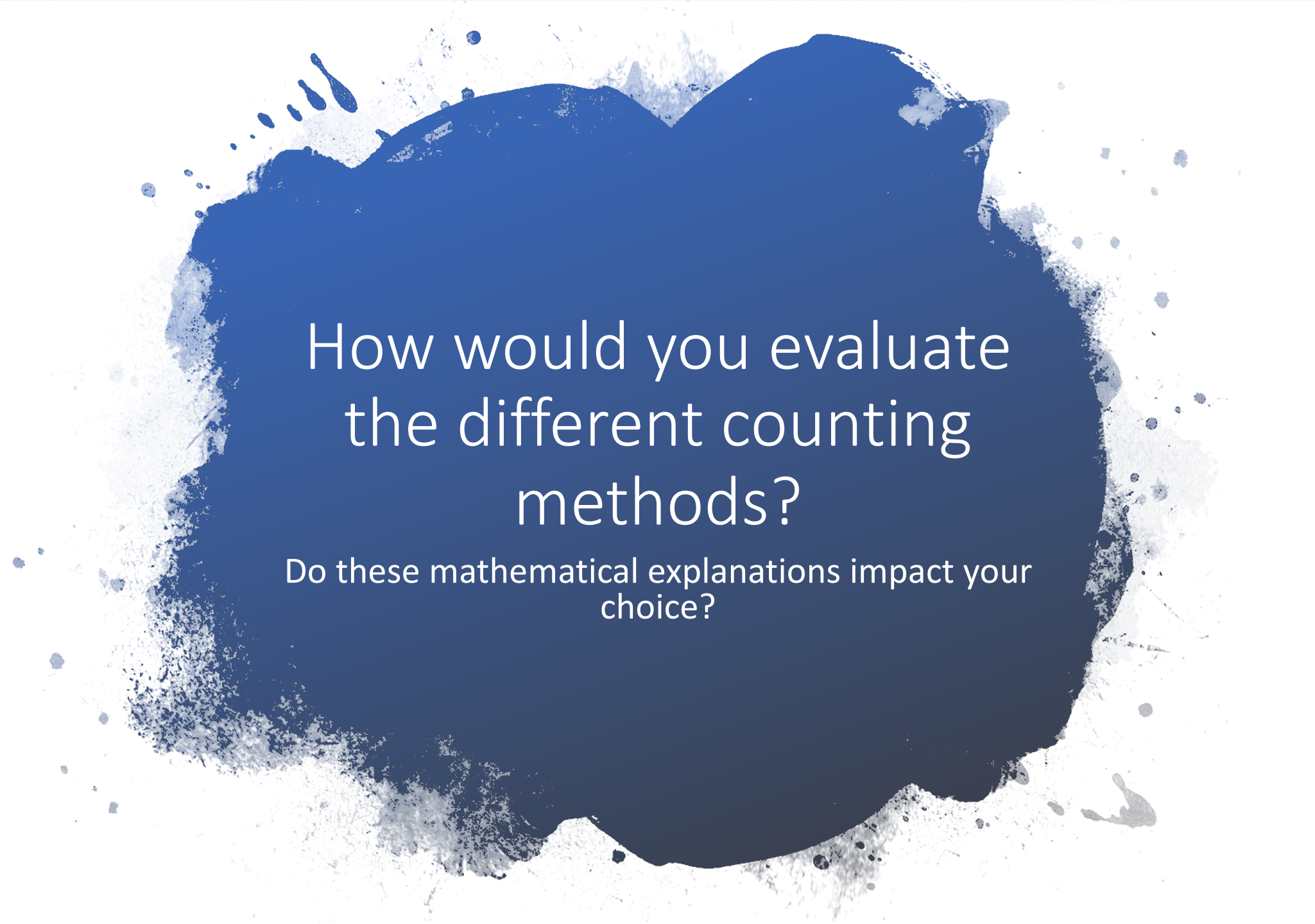


How to count votes is not so easy!



And there's more





How would you evaluate
the different counting
methods?

Do these mathematical explanations impact your
choice?

Ranked Choice Voting isn't perfect

- But it does get rid of the spoiler effect
- Greater likelihood than plurality of selecting the Condorcet winner
- Never selects the Condorcet loser
- Reduces the incentives for strategic voting
- Is it too complicated?
- Unlike the electoral college issue, RCV can be introduced gradually so people can become more familiar with it

Discussion

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Is Ranked Choice Voting the solution?
- All elections or just primaries?

