



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Voice vs. Votes:

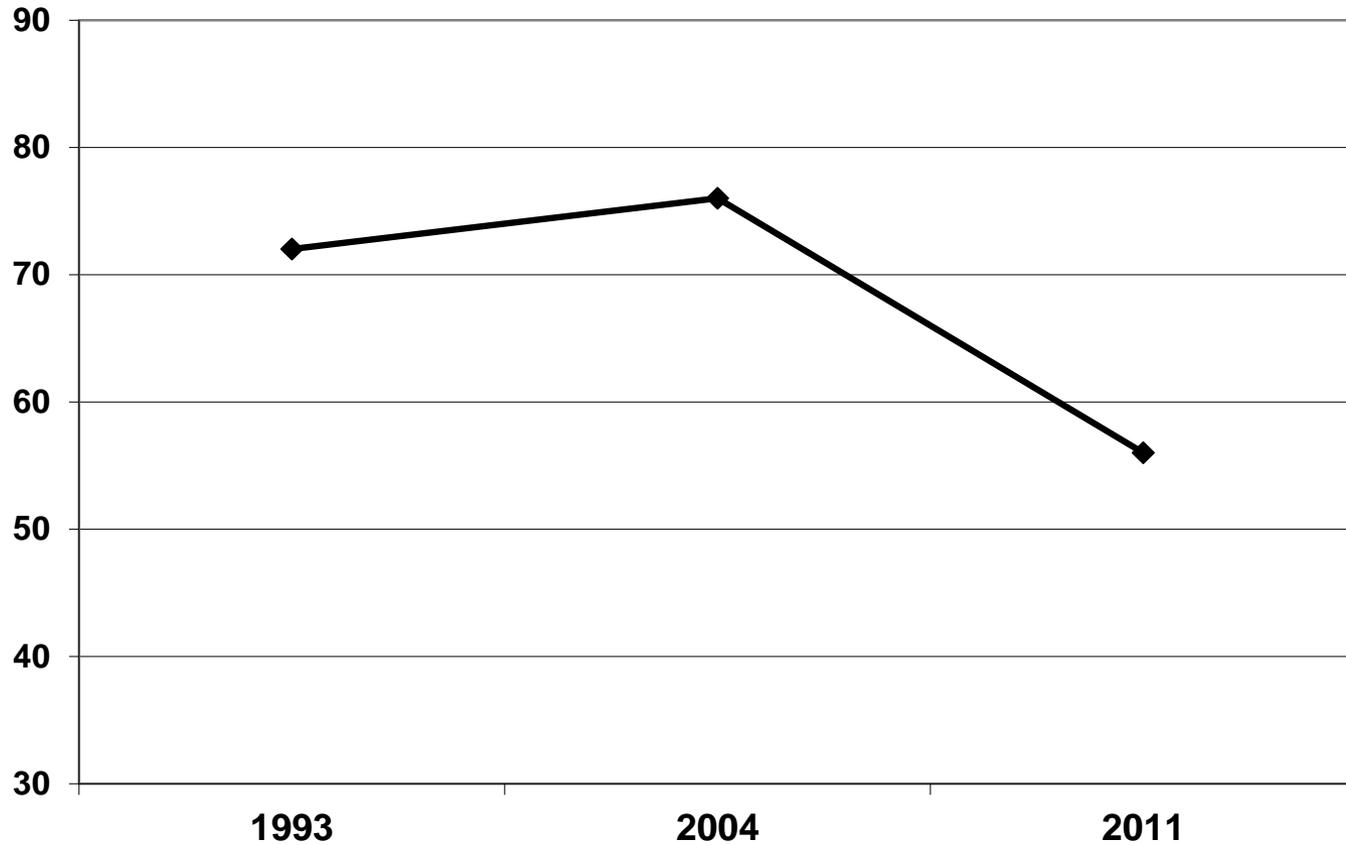
**Adapting the Institutions and Processes of Direct Democracy
to Improve Citizen Engagement and Participation**

Lawrence LeDuc

University of Toronto

*Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue
Carleton University: March 10-11, 2016*

Percent of Canadians who feel “very satisfied” or “fairly satisfied” with the way that democracy works in this country



Satisfaction with the way that democracy works in sixteen countries

Denmark	92	Spain	60
Sweden	80	Canada	57
Netherlands	78	UK	56
Finland	75	United States	51
Poland	68	Italy	46
Ireland	66	Portugal	30
Germany	66	Greece	24
France	61	Hungary	19

Voice vs. votes: Institutions and processes of citizen engagement



- Referendums
- Initiatives
- Citizens assemblies
- Citizen juries
- Deliberative polling

Impediments to democratic deliberation in typical referendum campaigns

Motive	Government
Clarity	Complexity
Turnout	Duration
Second order effects	Partisanship
Overload	Campaign tactics
Information	Resources

Quebec sovereignty (1980)

The Government of Quebec has made public its proposal to negotiate a new agreement with the rest of Canada, based on the equality of nations. This agreement would enable Quebec to acquire the exclusive power to make its laws, levy its taxes, and establish relations abroad – in other words, sovereignty – and at the same time, to maintain with Canada an economic association including a common currency. No change in political status resulting from these negotiations will be effected without approval by the people through another referendum.

On these terms, do you agree to give the Government of Quebec the mandate to negotiate the proposed agreement between Quebec and Canada?

Ireland Nice Treaty (2001)

Do you approve of the proposal to amend the Constitution contained in the undermentioned Bill?

Twenty - fourth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 2001.

Art. 29 Abs. 4 Lines 7 und 8:

The State may exercise the options or discretions provided by or under Articles 1.6, 1.9, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13 and 2.1 of the Treaty referred to in subsection 7 but any such exercise shall be subject to the prior approval of both Houses of the Oireachtas.

California proposition 71 (2004)

Establishes "California Institute for Regenerative Medicine" to regulate stem cell research and provide funding, through grants and loans, for such research and research facilities.

Establishes constitutional right to conduct stem cell research; prohibits Institute's funding of human reproductive cloning research.

Establishes oversight committee to govern Institute.

Provides General Fund loan up to \$3 million for Institute's initial administration/implementation costs.

Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds to finance Institute activities up to \$3 billion subject to annual limit of \$350 million.

Appropriates monies from General Fund to pay for bonds.

Sweden nuclear energy (1980)

1. "Energy for Sweden" 18.9%

2. "Phase out, but sensibly" 39.1

3. "Atomic power? - no thanks" 38.7

Blank 3.3

New Zealand electoral reform (1992)

A. Retain FPTP 15.3%

Change electoral system	84.7
-------------------------	------

B. SMS	5.5%
--------	------

STV	17.4
-----	------

MMP	70.5
-----	------

AV	6.6
----	-----

