

Annex B: Case study of voting power

Scenario

Imagine a region with **5 mayors** and a total population of **500,000 people**.

- **Metro City:** 350,000 people (Mayor A)
- **Mid-Size Town:** 100,000 people (Mayor B)
- **Rural Town 1:** 25,000 people (Mayor C)
- **Rural Town 2:** 15,000 people (Mayor D)
- **Rural Town 3:** 10,000 people (Mayor E)

Model 1: "One Mayor, One Vote"

This is where every mayor gets one vote.

- **How it works:** There are 5 mayors, so any 3 votes can pass a motion.
- **The Scenario:** The three rural towns (C, D, and E) want to use the regional budget for a project that only benefits them. The two big cities (A and B) think it's a waste of money.
- **The Vote:**
 - Metro City (350k): Votes NO
 - Mid-size Town (100k): Votes NO
 - Rural Town 1 (25k): **Votes YES**
 - Rural Town 2 (15k): **Votes YES**
 - Rural Town 3 (10k): **Votes YES**
- **The Result:** The motion **PASSES, 3 votes to 2**.

Why this is a problem? The "YES" votes represent a combined total of only **50,000 people**. The "NO" votes represent **450,000 people**.

This system allows mayors representing just **10% of the population** to overrule the mayors representing the other **90%**. Even though all mayors will be required to act in the best interests of the region as a whole, there is a risk of unfair results.

Model 2: "Pure Population" Vote

This is where a mayor's voting power is only based on population.

- **How it works:** A motion needs over 50% of the population to pass.
 - Metro City (Mayor A) controls **70%** of the vote
 - Mid-size Town (Mayor B) controls **20%**.
 - The 3 rural towns control **10%** combined.
- **The Scenario:** Metro City wants to use the regional budget for a project that benefits city dwellers. Every single other mayor (B, C, D, and E) thinks it's a terrible idea.
- **The Vote:**
 - Metro City (70%): **Votes YES**
 - Everyone Else (30%): **Votes NO**
- **The Result:** The motion **PASSES, 70% to 30%**.

Why this is a problem?

Rural communities may feel that the Metro City interests always carry the vote without adequate power for other communities' interests.