

# GV101

## Introduction to Political Science

### Week 09: Electoral Systems

Classes, Monday 02 December 2019

Joe Greenwood

Email: [j.greenwood3@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.greenwood3@lse.ac.uk)

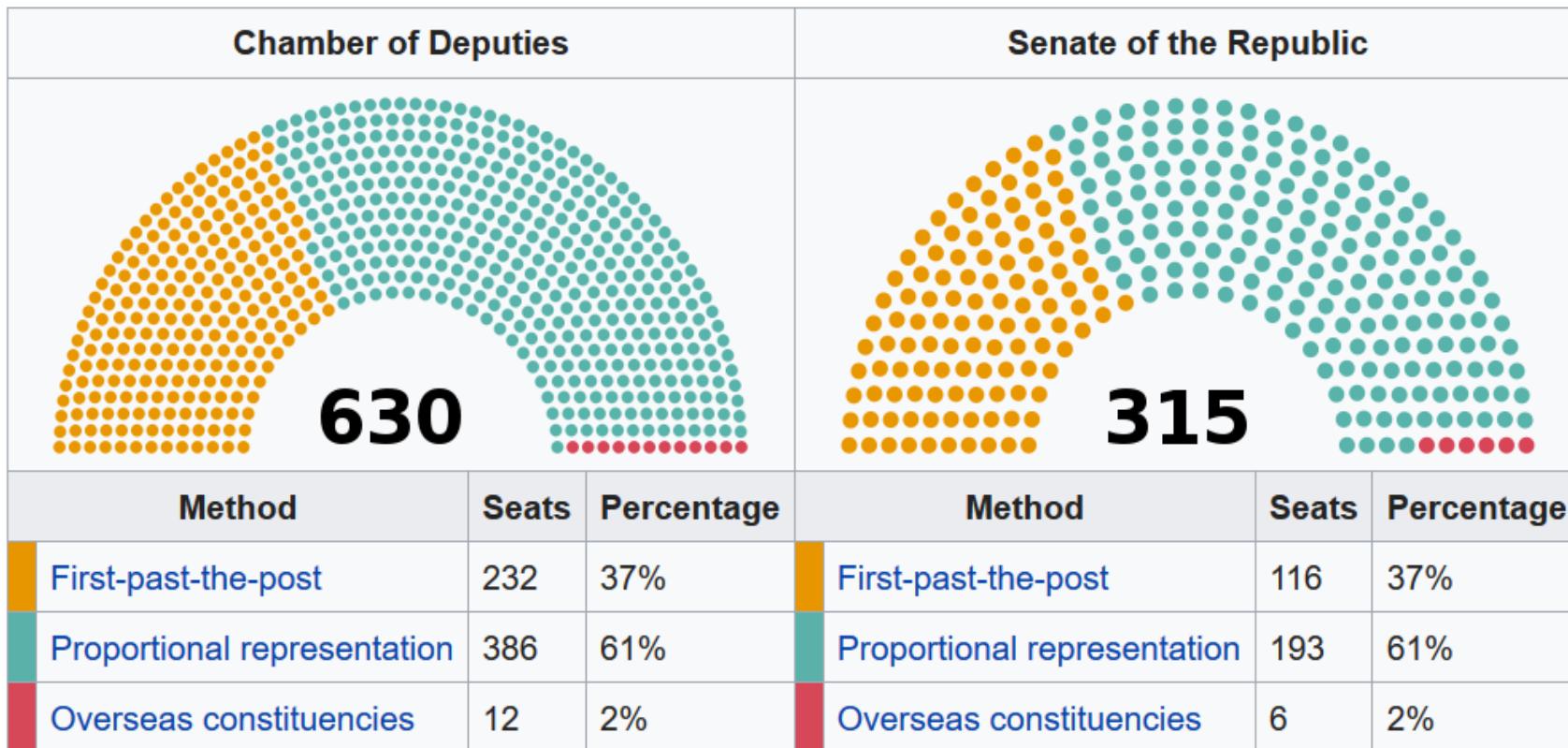
Tweet: [@NiceOneCombo](https://twitter.com/NiceOneCombo)

# Essential Reading Overview

- Clark, Golder and Golder outline the concept of electoral integrity, give (technical) detail of a range of majoritarian, proportional, and mixed electoral systems, and outline the following possible explanations for electoral system choice: 'the self-interest of political parties, general interest concerns, historical precedent, external pressures, and idiosyncratic occurrences.'
- Carey and Hix use data on real countries to demonstrate that the traditionally observed trade-off between representativeness and accountability is not a linear one. The gains in proportionality and proximity of voters to government (used as indicators of representativeness) are most dramatic with small increases in district magnitude (above one). At the same time, whilst the number of parties in the system and government (used as indicators of accountability) do rise more sharply with those same small increases in district magnitude (above one), the effect is not so dramatic as to discount the gains in representativeness. Thus, there is a 'sweet spot' in which small multi-member districts promote representativeness without too many costs in terms of accountability.

# Real-World Example

## Italian electoral law of 2017



# Related news coverage

## *Italy's President Dissolves Parliament and Officially Opens Election Season*



Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy spoke during his end-of-year news conference in Rome on Thursday. Giuseppe Lami/European Pressphoto Agency

## **Italy general election vote: Who's who and why it matters**

⌚ 3 March 2018

[f](#) [m](#) [t](#) [e](#) [Share](#)

Europe migrant crisis



GETTY IMAGES

Italians are choosing a new parliament on 4 March. Who is standing, what are they proposing and does the outcome matter? Here's a brief guide.