

Behaviour: Voting

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Agenda

- Practical points
- Discussion of readings
- Voting and coalition formation simulation:
 - Election 1
 - Coalition formation
 - Election 2



Practical points

- Mid-Term Feedback II: The Paper Version
- Please send your proposed blog titles to me by the end of Monday 31 October



Essential reading overview

Benedetto and Hix use data on the voting records of 408 Labour MPs between 2001 and 2005 to show that ministers are less likely to rebel but former ministers, those not promoted, MPs on the left, and those far from the party mean are more likely to do so.

Bolet uses an original dataset of pub closures at district level in England and Wales combined with Understanding Society data to show that community pub closures are positively related to support for UKIP. This relationship does not exist for other sorts of pub closure and is particularly strong in areas with higher levels of economic deprivation, but no interaction is found in relation to immigration inflows.

Gerber et al. run a field experiment in which different letters (civil duty, being studied, household voting, records to be updated) are randomly sent to households, and show that social pressure (the records to be updated treatment) has a clear and positive impact on turnout.

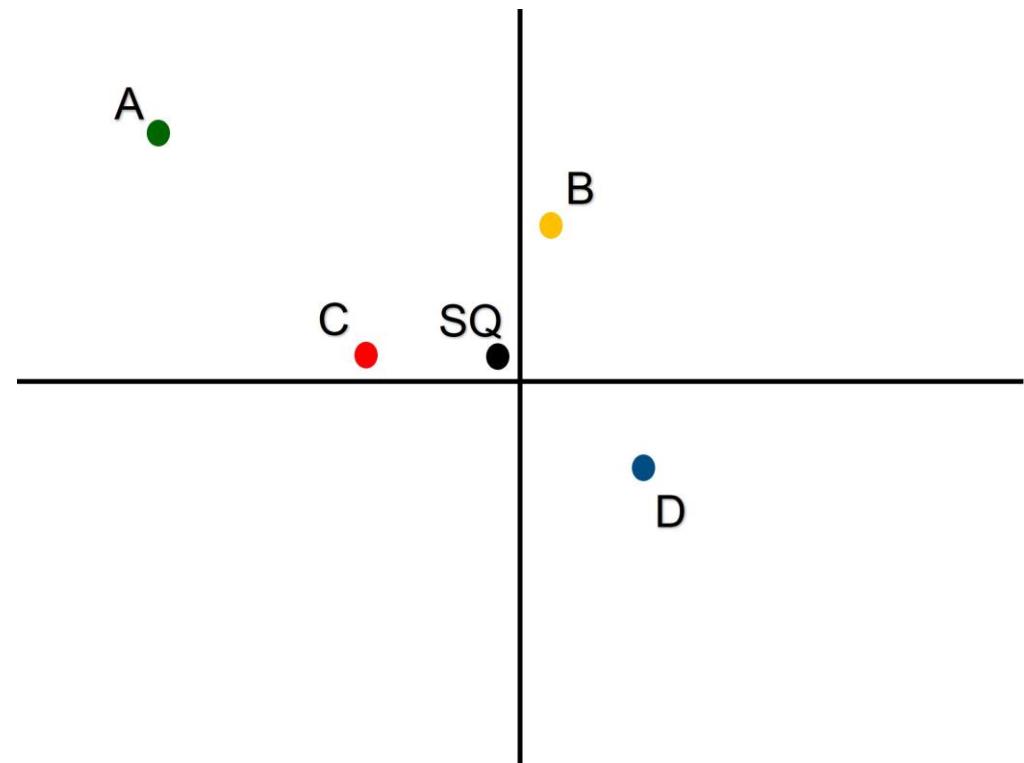


Simulation: Order of play

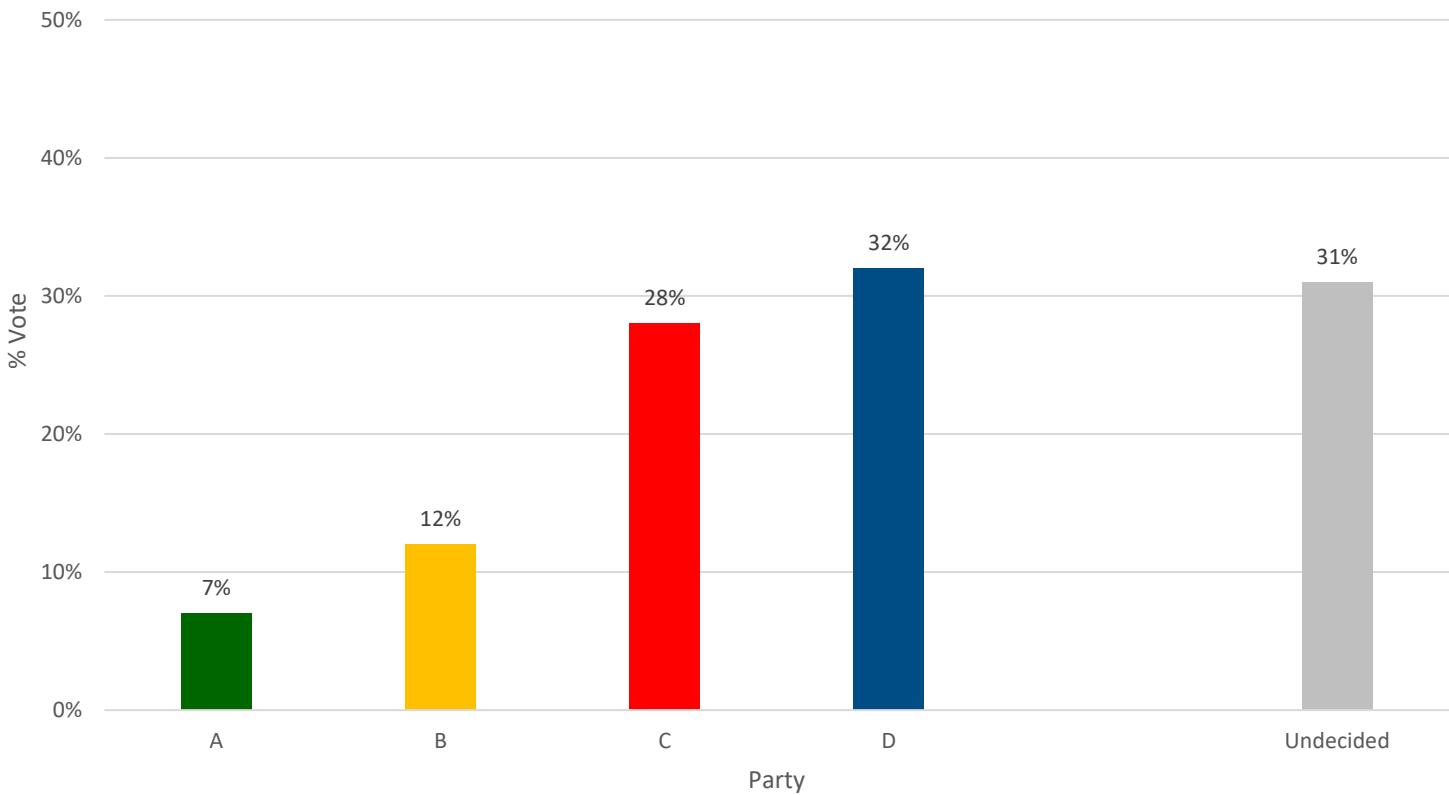
- Election: Voting (8 minutes)
- Election: Results and formateur designation (2 Minutes)
- Coalition formation: Formulation of positions (8 minutes)
- Coalition formation: Dispatch of negotiators (5 minutes)
- Coalition formation: Ongoing negotiation (12 minutes)
- Election: Voting (5 minutes)
- Roundup and discussion (10 minutes)



Election 1: Party positions



Election 1: Current polling

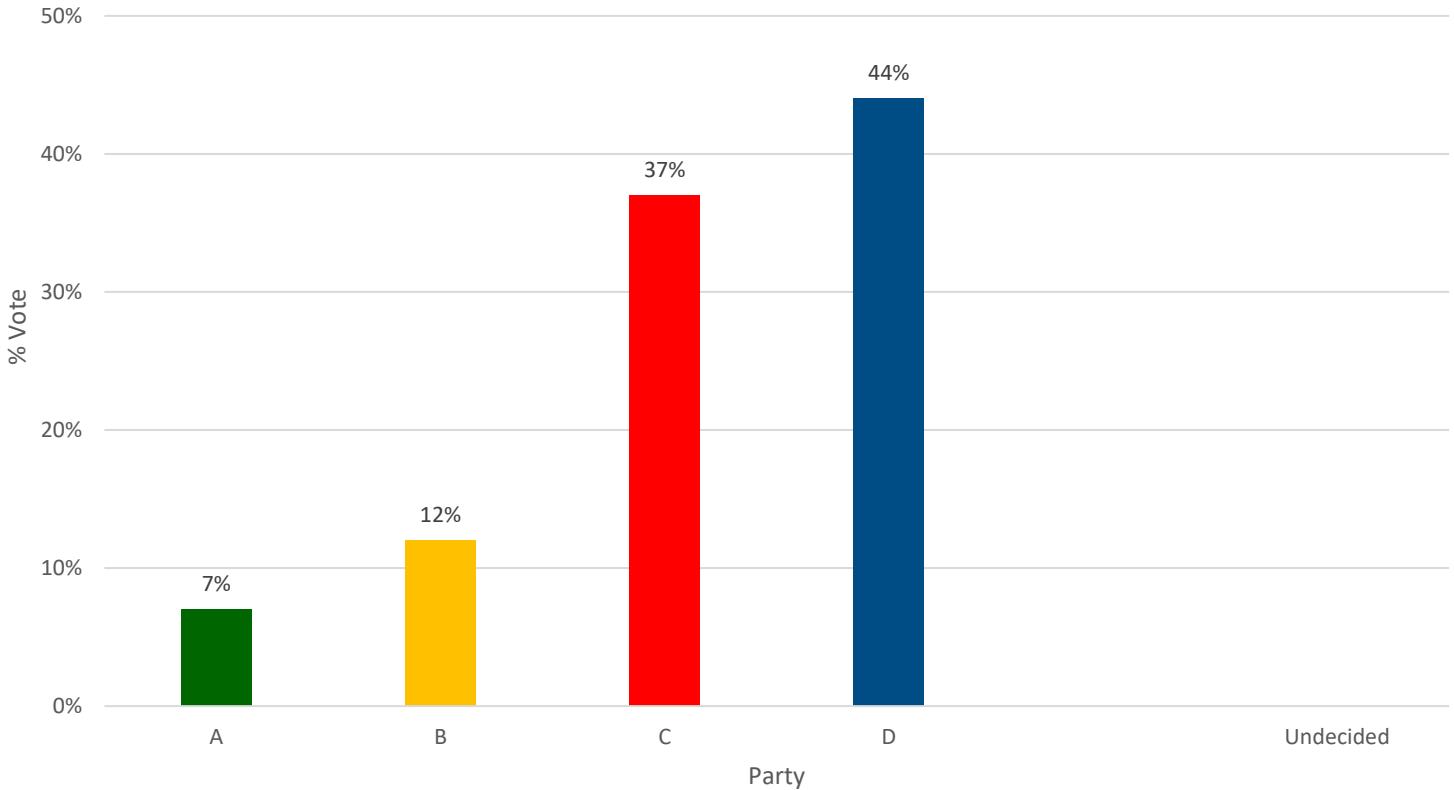


Election 1: Task

- In your groups:
 - Familiarise yourself with:
 - The positions of the parties
 - The position of the status quo
 - Your own position
 - The current polling
 - Decide which party you will allocate your votes to
- Note: we're using a purely proportional electoral system



Election 1: Results and formateur designation



Coalition formation: Formulation of positions

- The party designated as formateur should:
 - Decide which parties it wishes to attempt to form a coalition with
 - Decide what its offered policy position will be (it must be a consistent offer to all the prospective coalition partners)
 - Decide how many cabinet portfolios (out of a total of 20) it will offer to each prospective coalition partner
- The other parties should:
 - Decide which parties they are (not) willing to form a coalition with
 - Formulate an idea of the policy positions they would accept
 - Decide how many cabinet portfolios (out of 20) they expect to be offered
- Each party is allowed 1-2 minutes of 'expert advice'

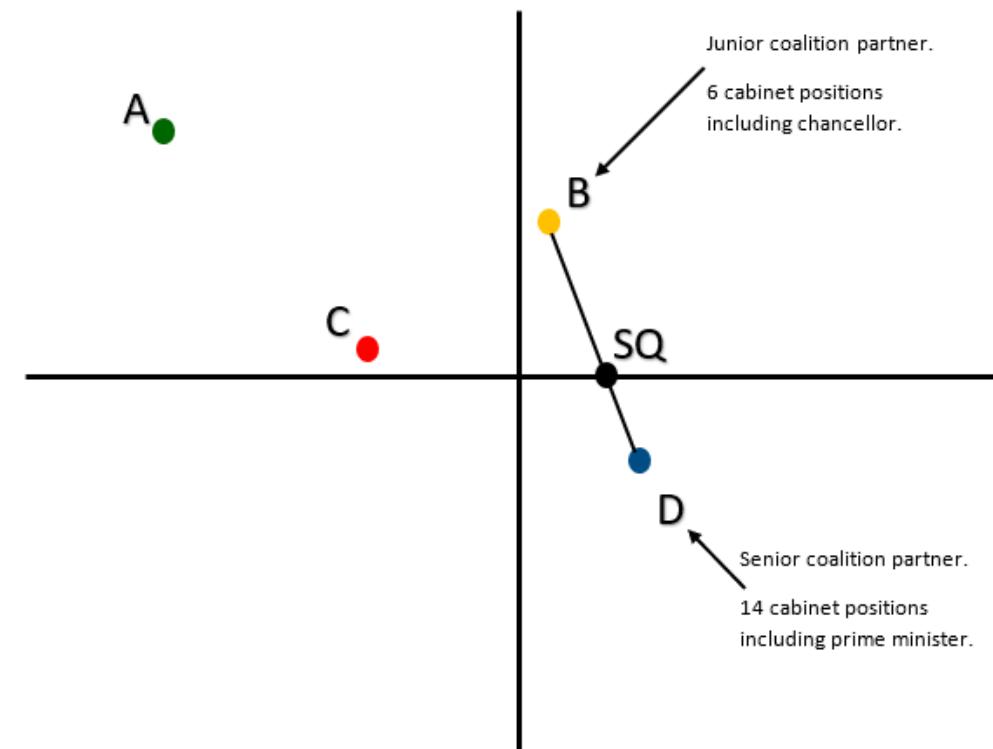


Coalition formation: Dispatch of negotiators

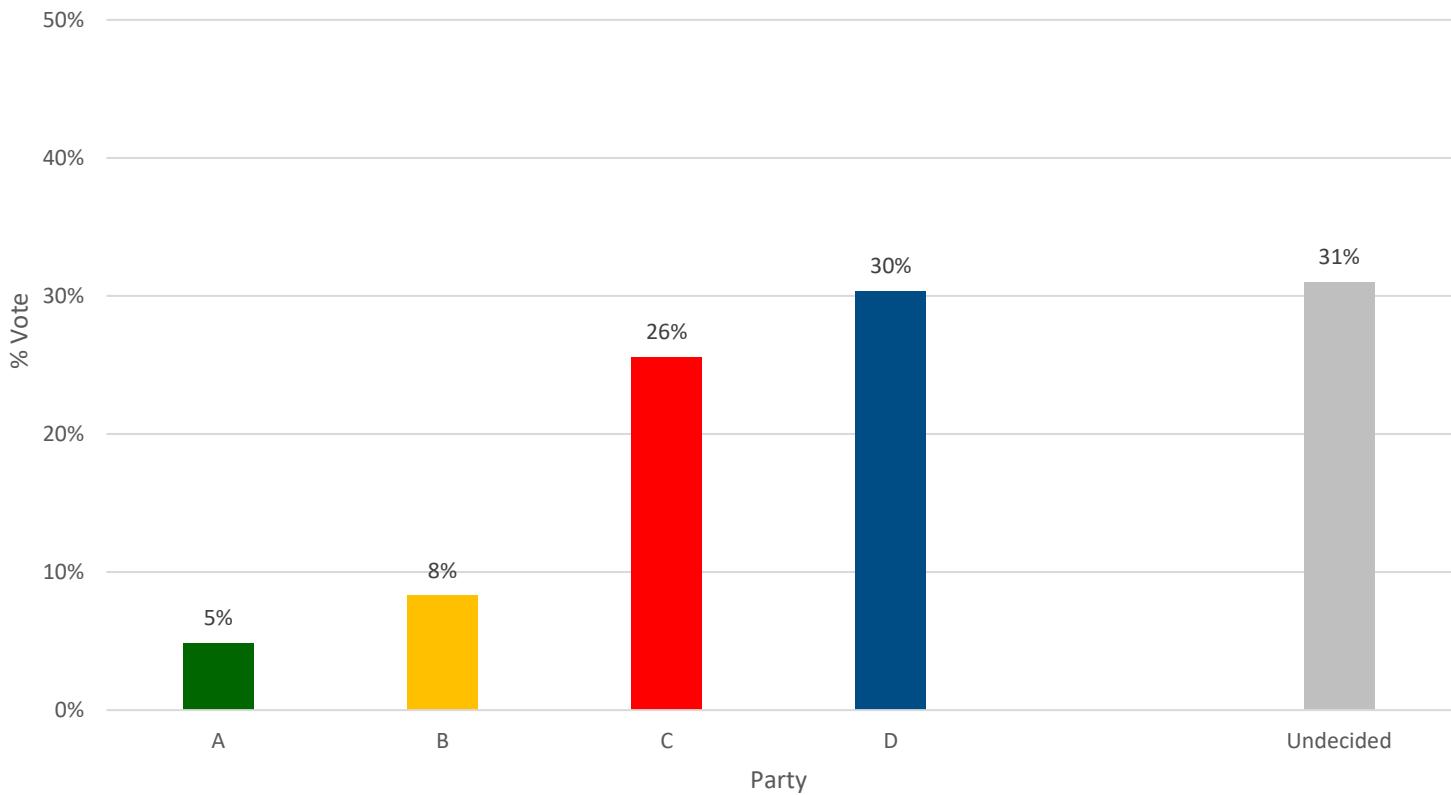
- The party designated as formateur should dispatches negotiators to the parties that it wishes to propose a coalition with
- The negotiators offer the policy position and allocation of cabinet portfolios to the prospective cabinet partners
- The negotiators and the prospective coalition partners should exchange as much information as possible before the negotiator returns to their party colleagues to report back
- Has a coalition been formed? If not, negotiations continue...



Election 2: Party positions



Election 2: Current polling

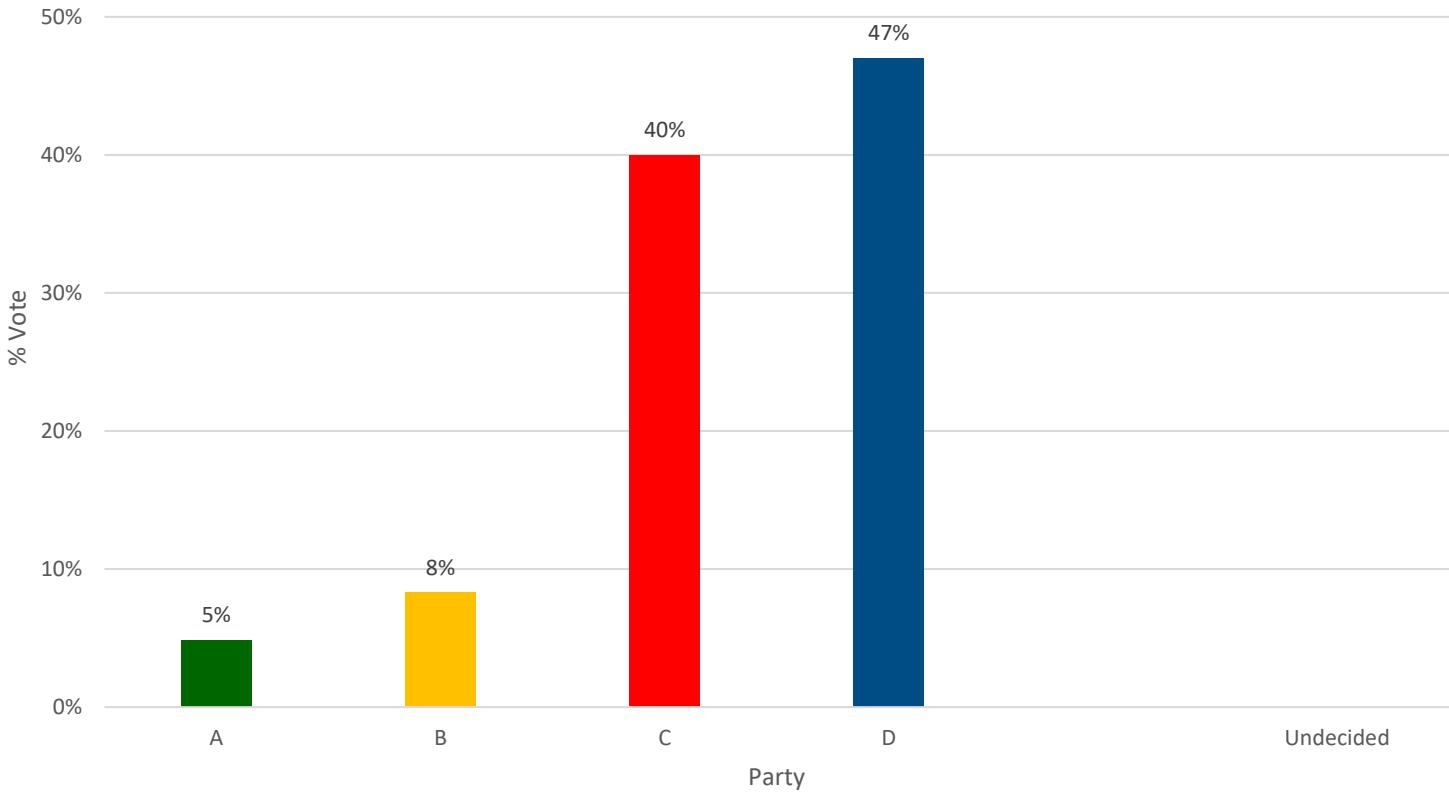


Election 2: Task

- In your groups:
 - Remind yourself of:
 - The positions of the parties
 - The position of the status quo
 - Your own position
 - The current polling
 - Decide which party you will allocate your votes to
- Note: we're using a purely proportional electoral system



Election 2: Results



Roundup and discussion

- How did you find the simulation; what are your main observations about this (stylised) account of how electorates and parties behave?
- Are there any questions arising from the simulation?
- Are there any more general questions (e.g., about voting)?

