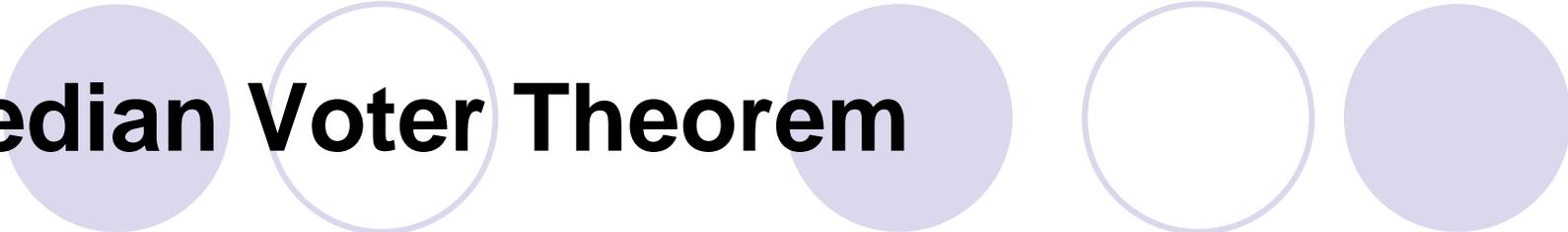




Introduction to the American Political Process

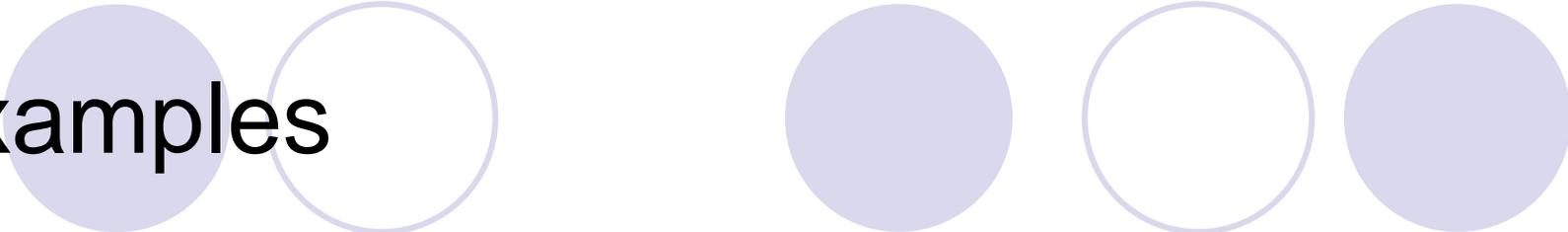
Legislative Behavior: The Median
Voter Theorem

Median Voter Theorem

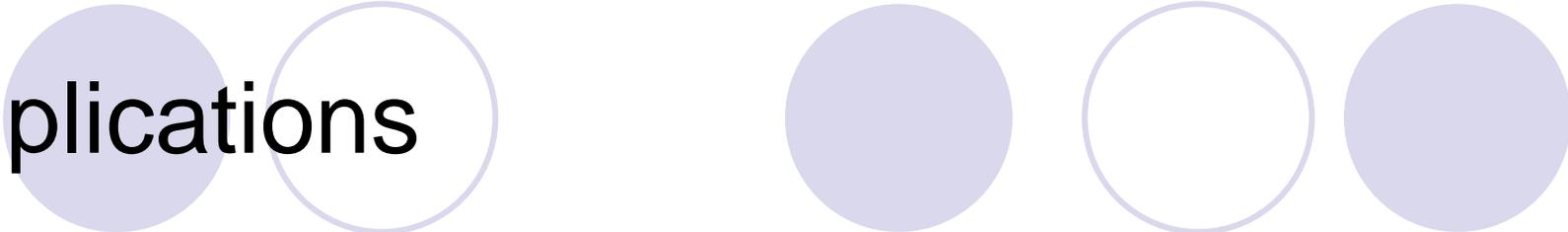


- Basic Logic
 - Think spatially
 - Place people and policies in the space
 - How do people make choice
- Predictions

Examples

The word "Examples" is positioned at the top left. To its right, there are two overlapping circles: a solid light purple one on the left and an outlined light purple one on the right. Further to the right, there are three more circles: a solid light purple one, an outlined light purple one, and another solid light purple one.

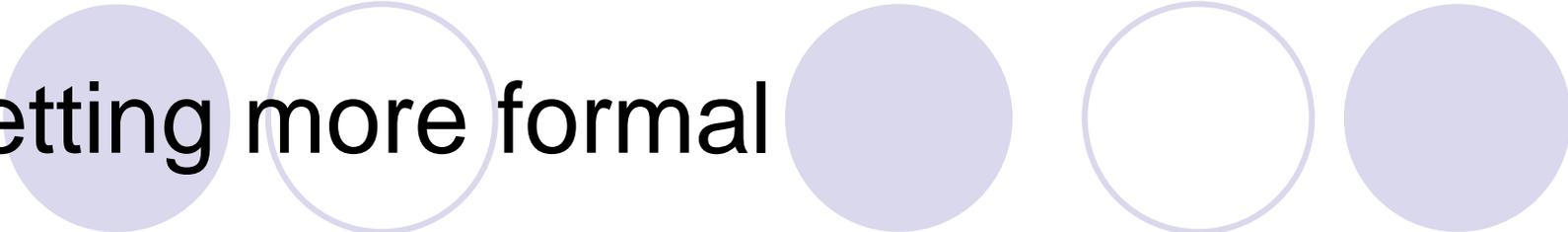
- Minimum Wage – no status quo
- Minimum Wage – status quo
- 2000 Election



Implications

- Median voter gets his/her preferred policies
- Centrist policies

Getting more formal



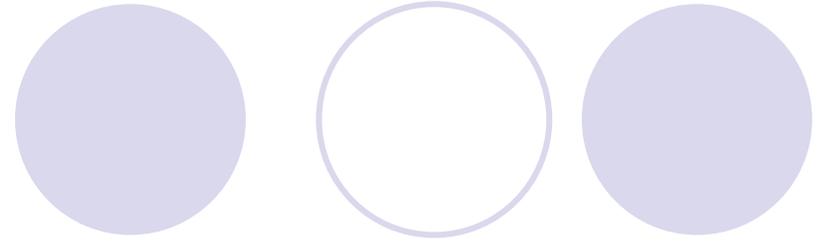
1. Assumptions

- One-dimensional policy space
- Utility function
- Majority rule voting

2. Results

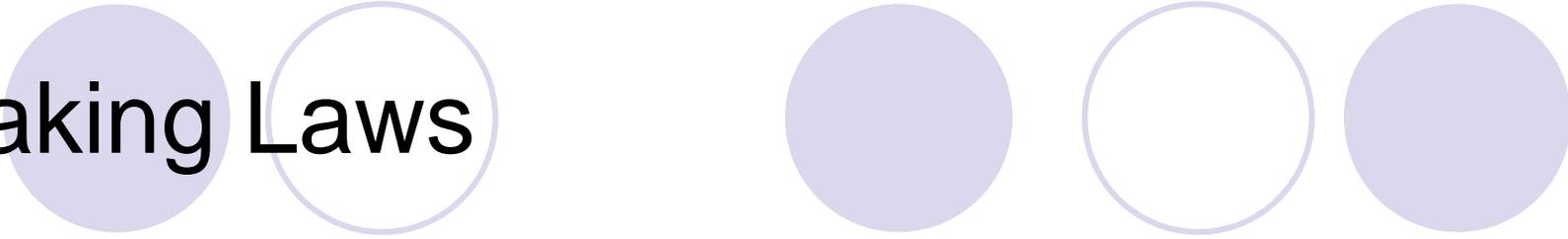
- Median voter location informative
- Condorcet Winner
- Composition of voting body can change without changing outcomes
- Centrist policies

Extensions



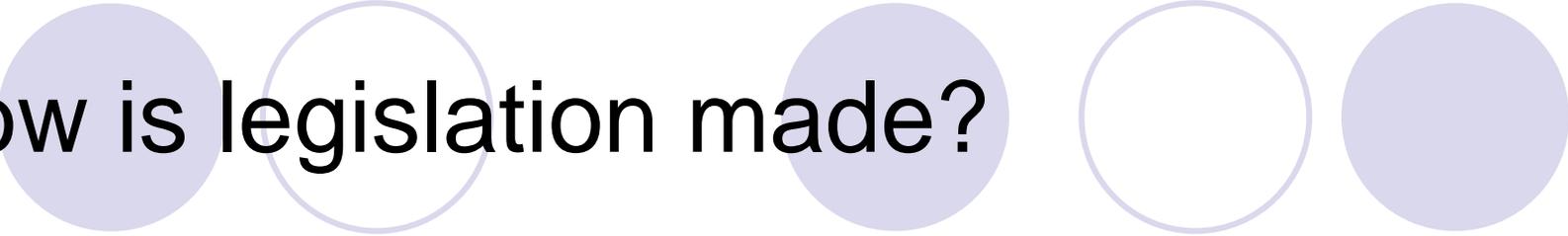
- Multidimensional Space
 - Chaos result
 - Solutions

Making Laws

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide consists of two rows of circles. The first row has a solid light purple circle on the left and an outlined light purple circle on the right. The second row has a solid light purple circle on the left, an outlined light purple circle in the middle, and a solid light purple circle on the right.

- Lawmaking is a shared responsibility: SOP
 - Congress
 - President
 - Judiciary

How is legislation made?



- A bill becomes a law
 - Bill Introduced
 - Referred to relevant committee
 - Referred to relevant subcommittee
 - Hearings
 - Subcommittee Approval
 - Committee approval
 - Rules Committee
 - Floor debate
 - Passage
 - Conference Committee
 - Veto/Law Signed