

Democracy Found

A Nonpartisan Business Case for Political Innovation in Wisconsin Elections

Rotary Club of La Crosse, September 17, 2020



The Problem

“Washington isn’t broken – it’s doing what it’s designed to do.” – Mickey Edwards



Acting in the
public interest

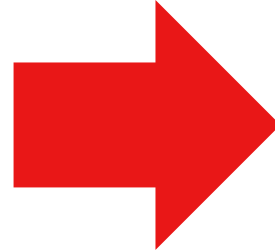


Likelihood of
getting reelected

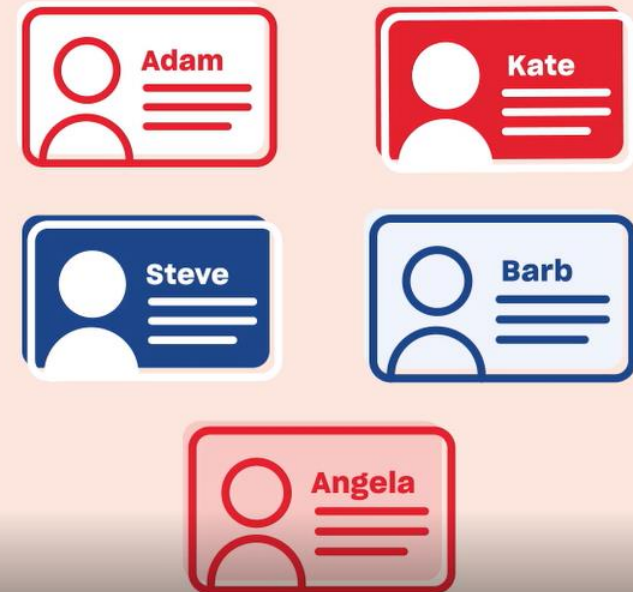
The Solution: Final-Five Voting

Top-Five Primaries

Primary Election



General Election



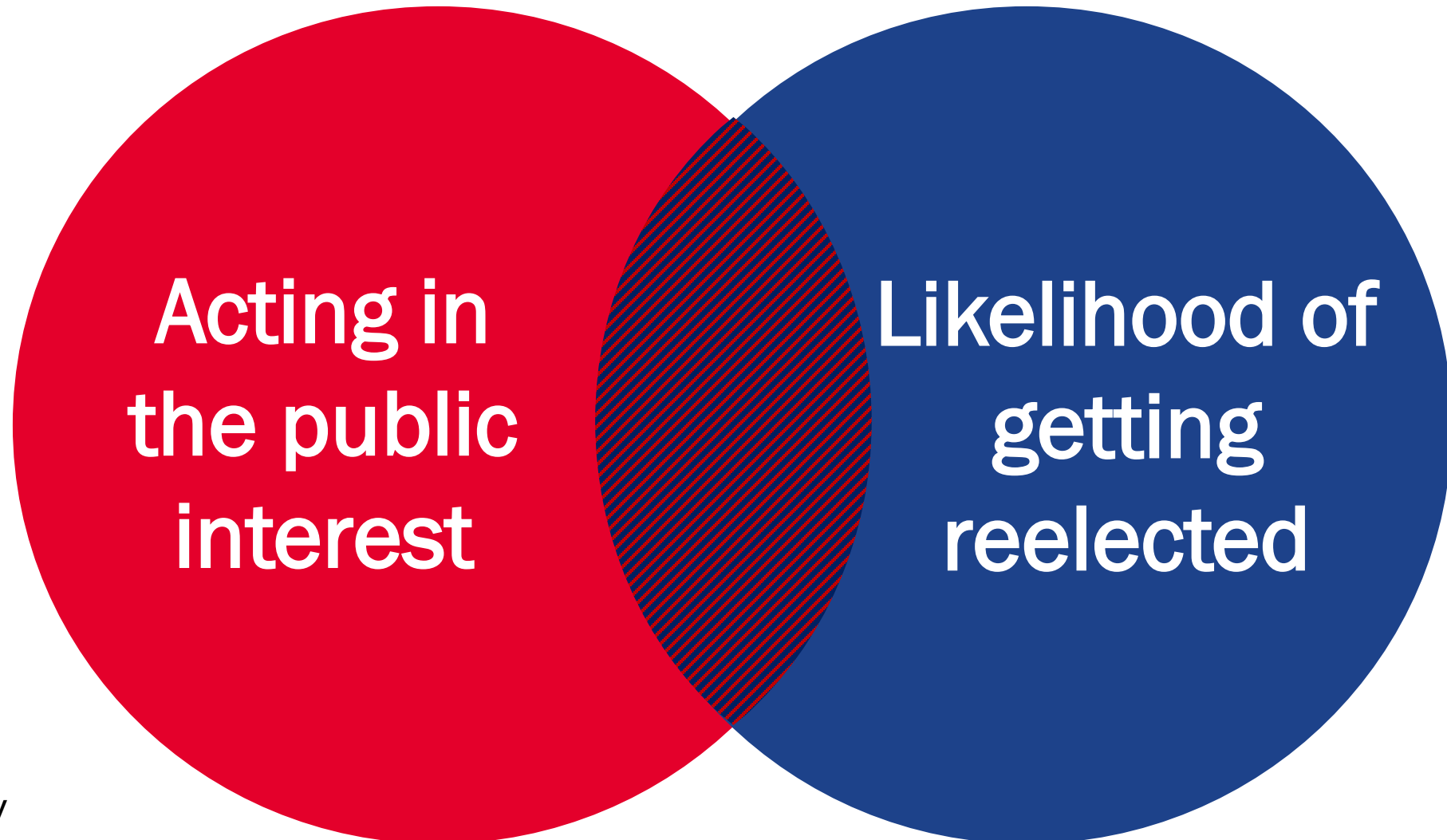
General Election

What is your favorite
Wisconsin professional
sports franchise?

	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE	4 TH CHOICE	5 TH CHOICE
Admirals <i>Milwaukee Party</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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Packers <i>GB Party</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Problem Solved

“America was founded on the greatest political innovation of modern times and political innovation is key to our future.”



Ideas Lab

Wisconsin should adopt innovative Final-Five Voting as one cure for political polarization

Your Turn

Dale Kooyenga and Daniel Riemer
Guest Columnists

As members of different political parties, it's easy to assume there are not very many issues that the two of us agree on in this era of deep political divides. Political rancor has poisoned our national dialogue even on issues that initially seem above politics.

But when we distance ourselves from the news cycle, look at the bigger picture and think about our values and the republic's future, we have both discovered something that transcends partisan feuds: spirited agreement about the need for election innovation

See **FINAL-FIVE**, Page 4D

Although some politicians have made voting a partisan issue, many voters don't think it should be.



Alan Ball of Wauwatosa casts his vote at the Hart Park Mueller Building in Wauwatosa during the February election. MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Final-Five

Continued from Page 3D

Our starting point is protecting our democracy at all costs. As members of the U.S. military reserve forces, we both stand ready to serve on the front lines should our nation call us to service. We also agree that a rule-based free market economy creates boundless opportunity and fosters the liberty that makes America exceptional. We agree that when we ask Wisconsin-ites to elect us, it is because we strive to deliver real results to real people. And we agree with the 75% of Americans who told a recent Gallup poll that Washington, D.C., is broken.

Like so many, however, we have seen Washington's breakdown as a distant problem. We have focused on our jobs in Wisconsin. We joined our constituents in complaining about the "swamp" in D.C.—especially during election season and moments of national crisis—but did not examine our own responsibility as state leaders to make a change. For the sake of our country and our children, now is the time for state leaders to work for change.

The dysfunction in our nation's capital will not miracu-

lously clean itself up. We at the state level share responsibility for cleaning up the mess at the national level, because as elected state leaders, we have the power to do something about it.

The U.S. Constitution delegates to the states many of the responsibilities that determine how members of Congress are elected. Therefore, we share responsibility for what does (or doesn't) happen in Congress, because election rules influence behavior and we decide how those elections work.

History has shaped the way states hold elections. When our country was young, examples of enduring and successful democracies did not exist. So, our leaders copied Britain's system of declaring the winner of an election to be the candidate with the most votes—even if that person did not receive a majority of votes—but only gained a plurality. More than 100 years later, reformers added party primaries to take decisions out of smoke-filled backrooms and give power to the people.

Both of these historical decisions now strongly figure in today's challenges. Together, party primaries and plurality elections trigger polarization during elections and make it very hard for Congress to work collaboratively to solve our nation's growing set of problems.

It does not have to be this way.

Just as innovation is the key to progress in the private sector, electoral innovation is the key to progress in our politics. The most important innovation is to change the rules that guide elections.

To change these rules, we have come together to support a new way of voting called Final-Five Voting.

With Final-Five Voting, congressional elections will work differently in two critical ways. No longer will you vote in a Republican primary or a Democrat primary; instead voters will cast their ballots in one, nonpartisan primary—and up to five candidates can proceed from the primary to the general election. Then, in the general election, voters will be able to rank these "final five" in order of preference using ranked-choice voting.

This new approach will change the nature of our elections, and in turn, create a new era of collaboration and results in Congress. Final-Five Voting does not require politicians or voters to abandon their ideological views—or their parties (we'll proudly remain members

of ours)—but it does encourage reaching across the aisle to solve big problems in a sustainable, consensus-building, bipartisan fashion. Members of Congress, having been elected by and held accountable to the general electorate, will feel more supported in seeking out common ground and making the difficult compromises required to solve the nation's most serious challenges.

Why not make Wisconsin a leader in advancing election reform? We hope this starts a robust conversation about that question. Let's consider this together.

Our founders and framers did not include any of these details in the Wisconsin or U.S. constitutions. Instead, they gave this responsibility to each state. We have an opportunity to embrace the responsibility they placed in us. And in the same way that the two of us, Republican and Democrat, are ready to serve our country together on the front lines, we are ready to work side by side to make our elections a model for the rest of the country.

Dale Kooyenga is a Republican state senator from Brookfield. Daniel Riemer is a Democratic member of the state Assembly from Milwaukee. Learn more about Final-Five Voting at www.DemocracyFound.org. Democracy Found is a Wisconsin-based advocacy group.



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Co-Founder & Co-Chair



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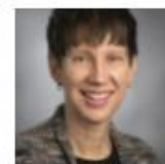
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Slide Appendix

Potential Q&A

Election Results

GMC Spring 2019 Example Results

Primary Election



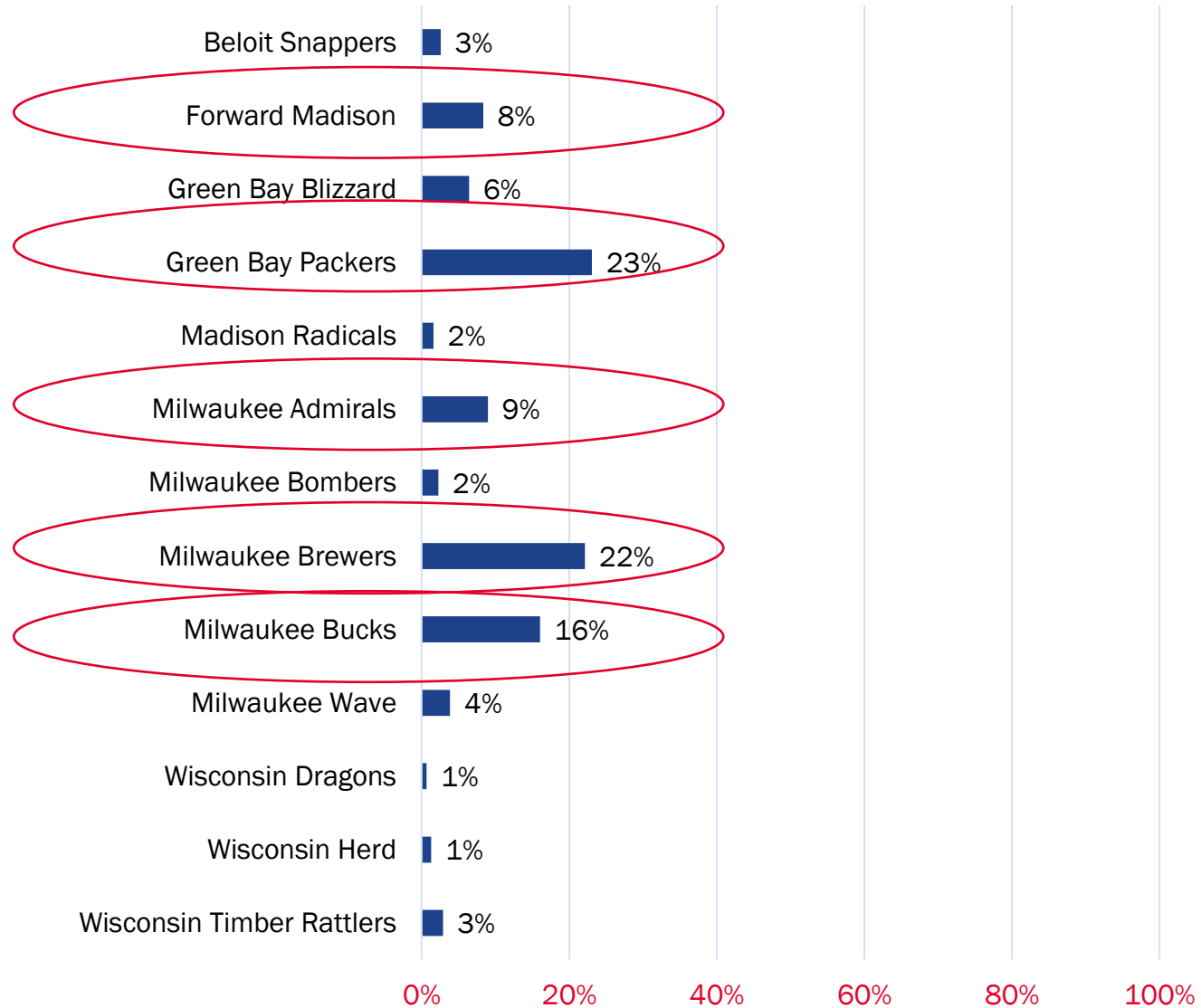
General Election



Primary Election

What is your favorite Wisconsin professional sports franchise? <i>Fill in the oval next to your choice, like this  :</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	Beloit Snappers <i>Beloit Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Forward Madison <i>Madison Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Green Bay Blizzard <i>GB Party</i>
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Green Bay Packers <i>GB Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Milwaukee Admirals <i>Milwaukee Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Milwaukee Brewers <i>Milwaukee Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Milwaukee Bucks <i>Milwaukee Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Milwaukee Wave <i>Milwaukee Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Wisconsin Herd <i>Oshkosh Party</i>
<input type="radio"/>	Wisconsin Timber Rattlers <i>Appleton Party</i>

Primary Election Results

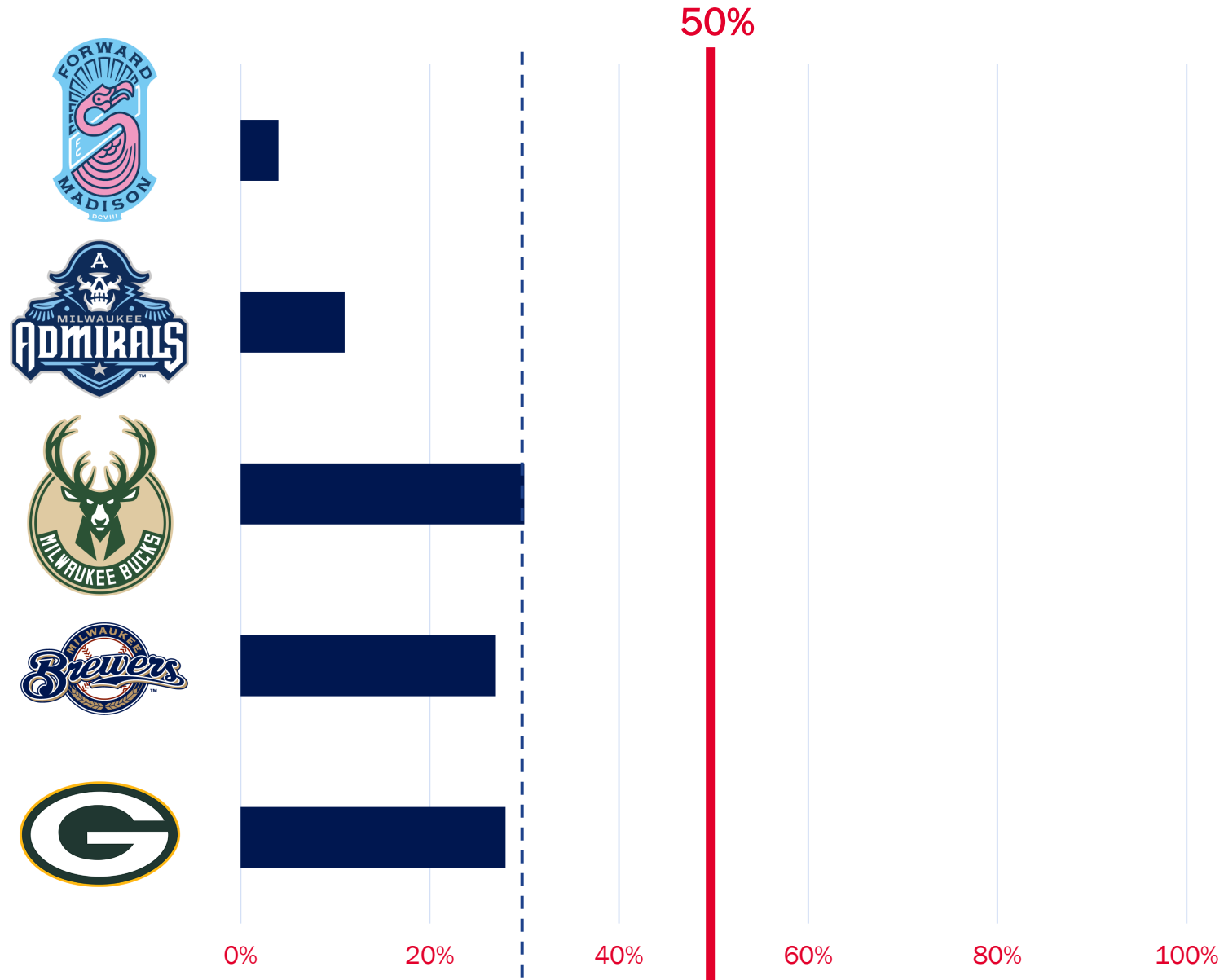


General Election

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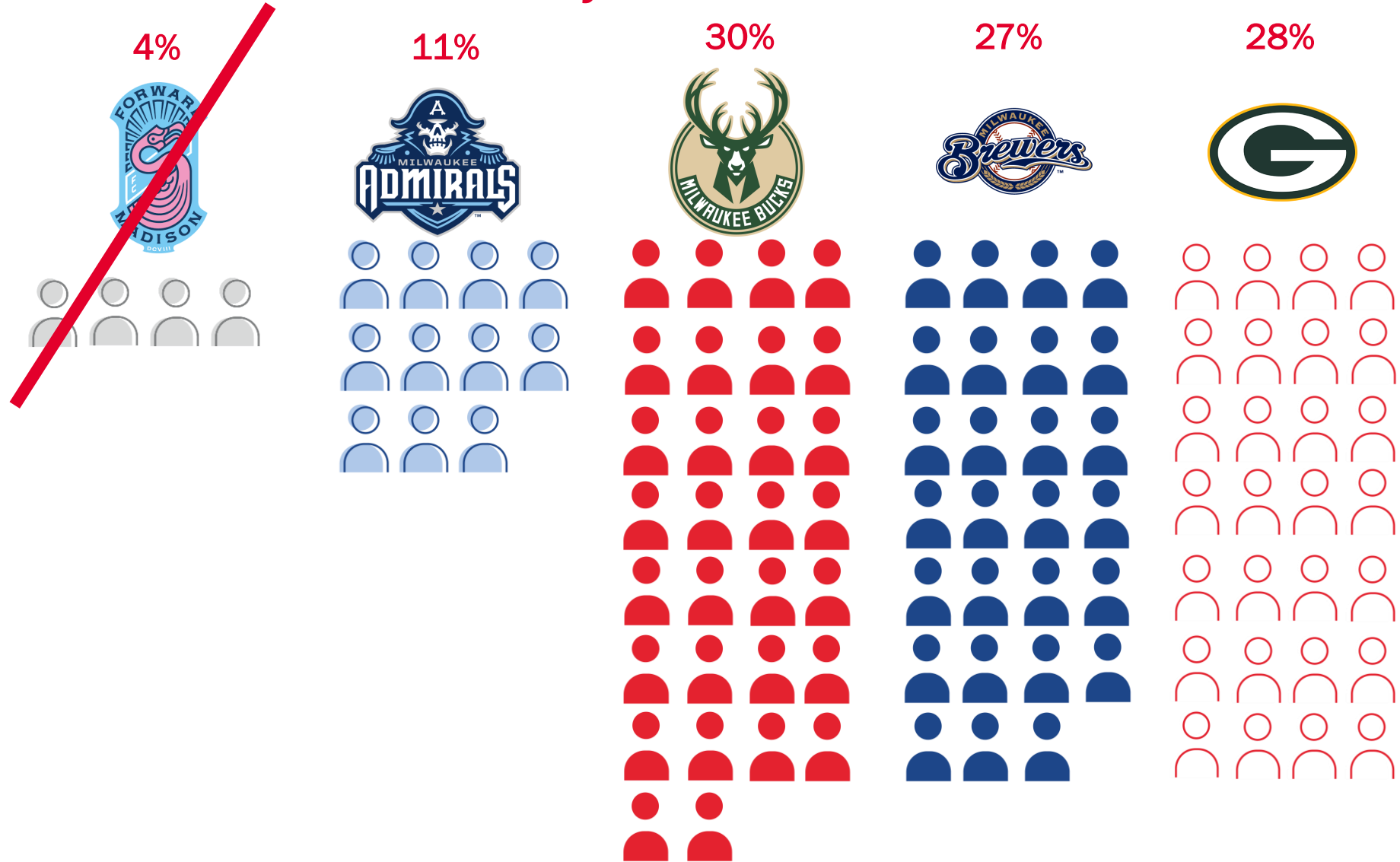
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Packers <i>GB Party</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

General Election Results



Round I

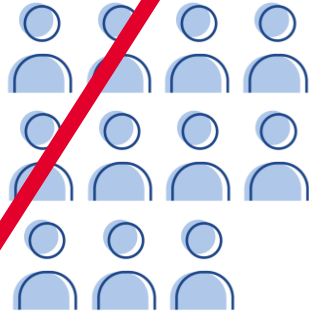
Plurality Winner: The Bucks



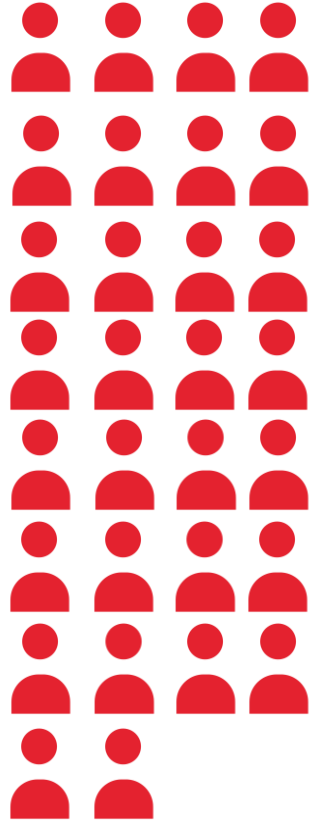
Round II

Plurality Winner: The Brewers

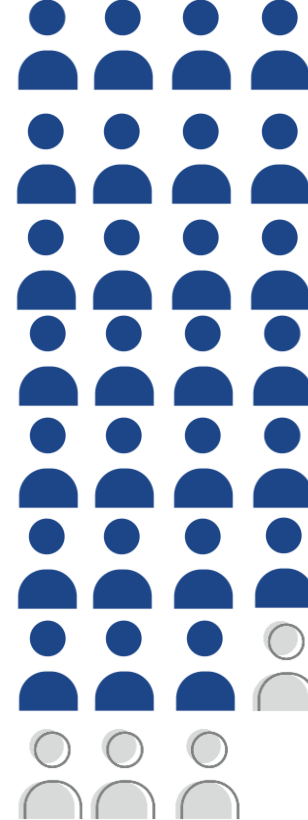
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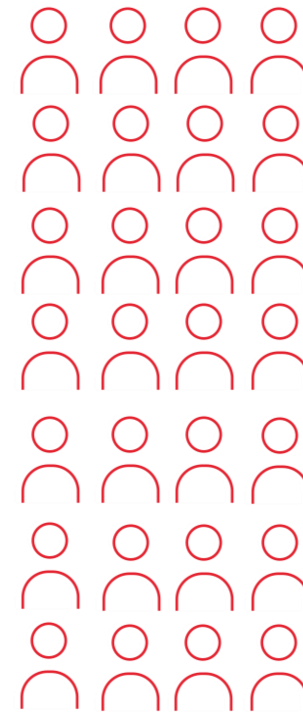
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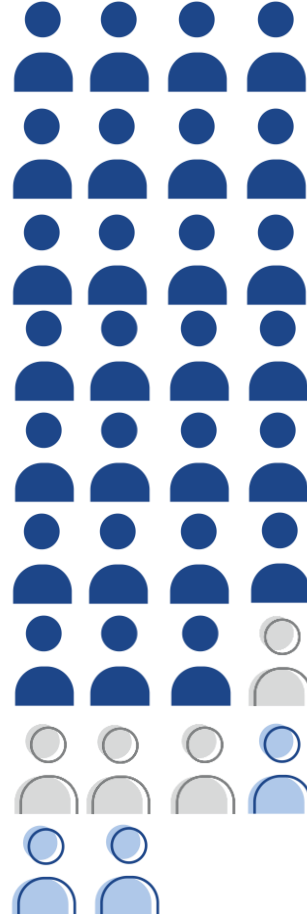
Round III

Plurality Winner: The Packers

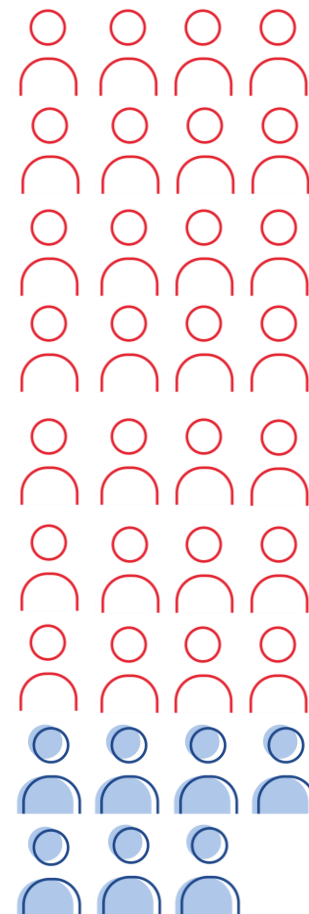
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33.5%



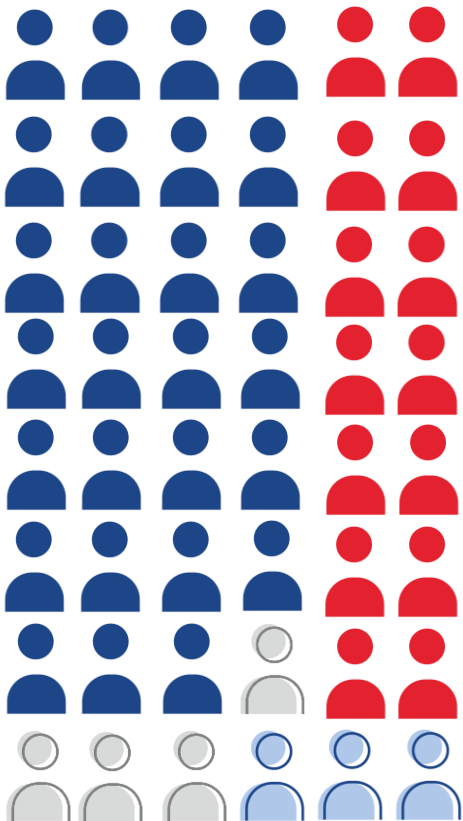
34.5%



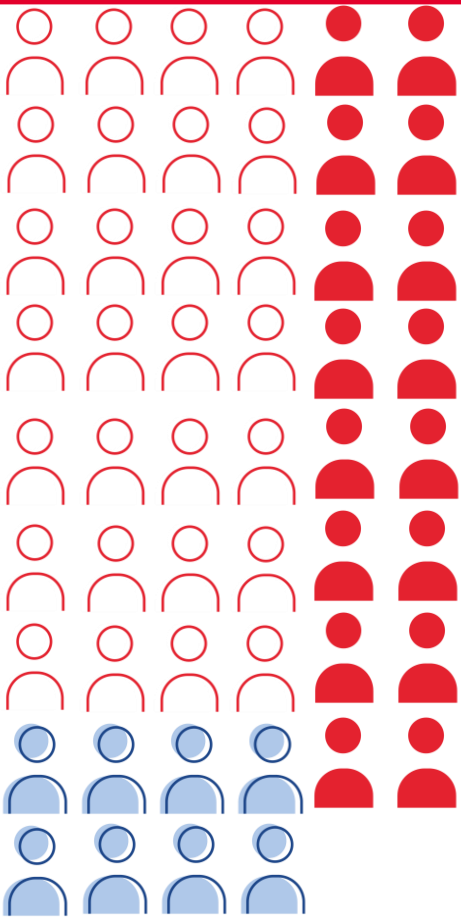
Final Results

Majority Winner: The Packers

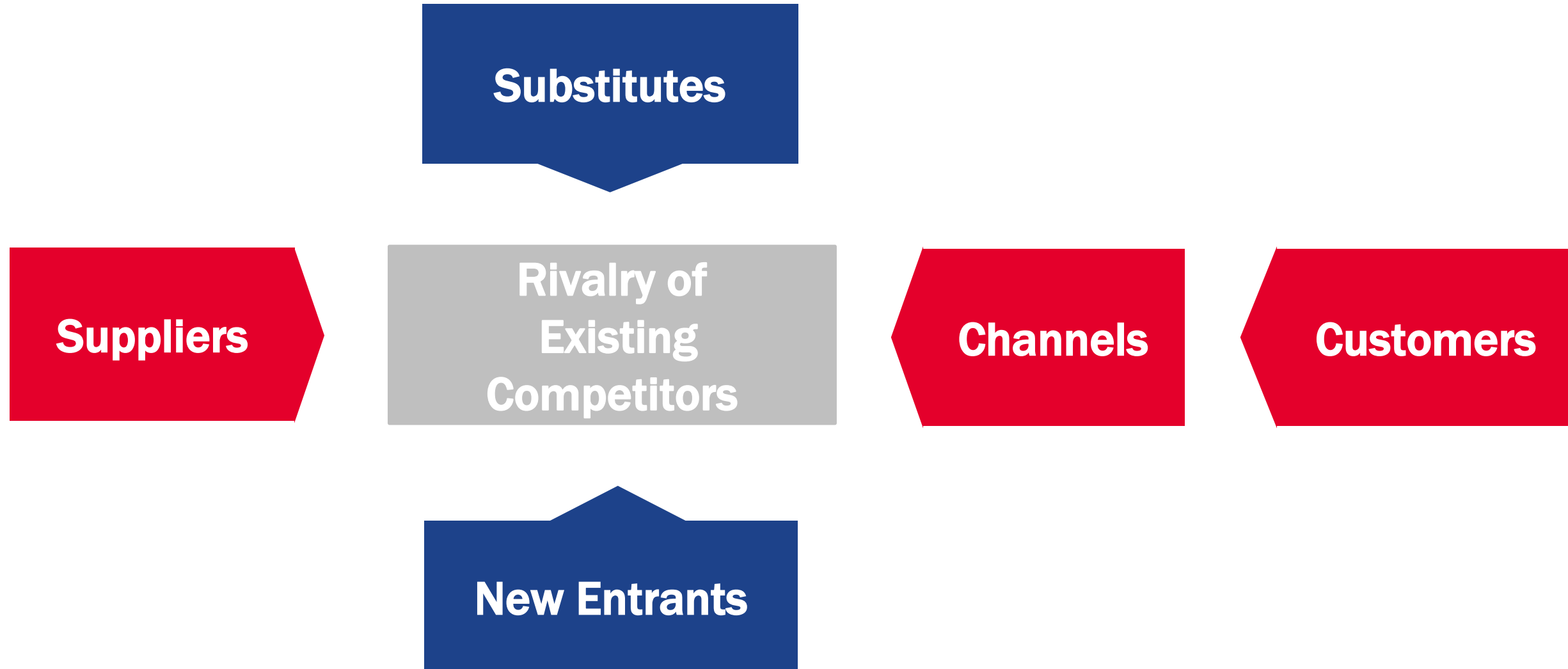
48%



52%



How the Duopoly Competes



The Challenge

It's Structural—Voting System Design



Results



Accountability