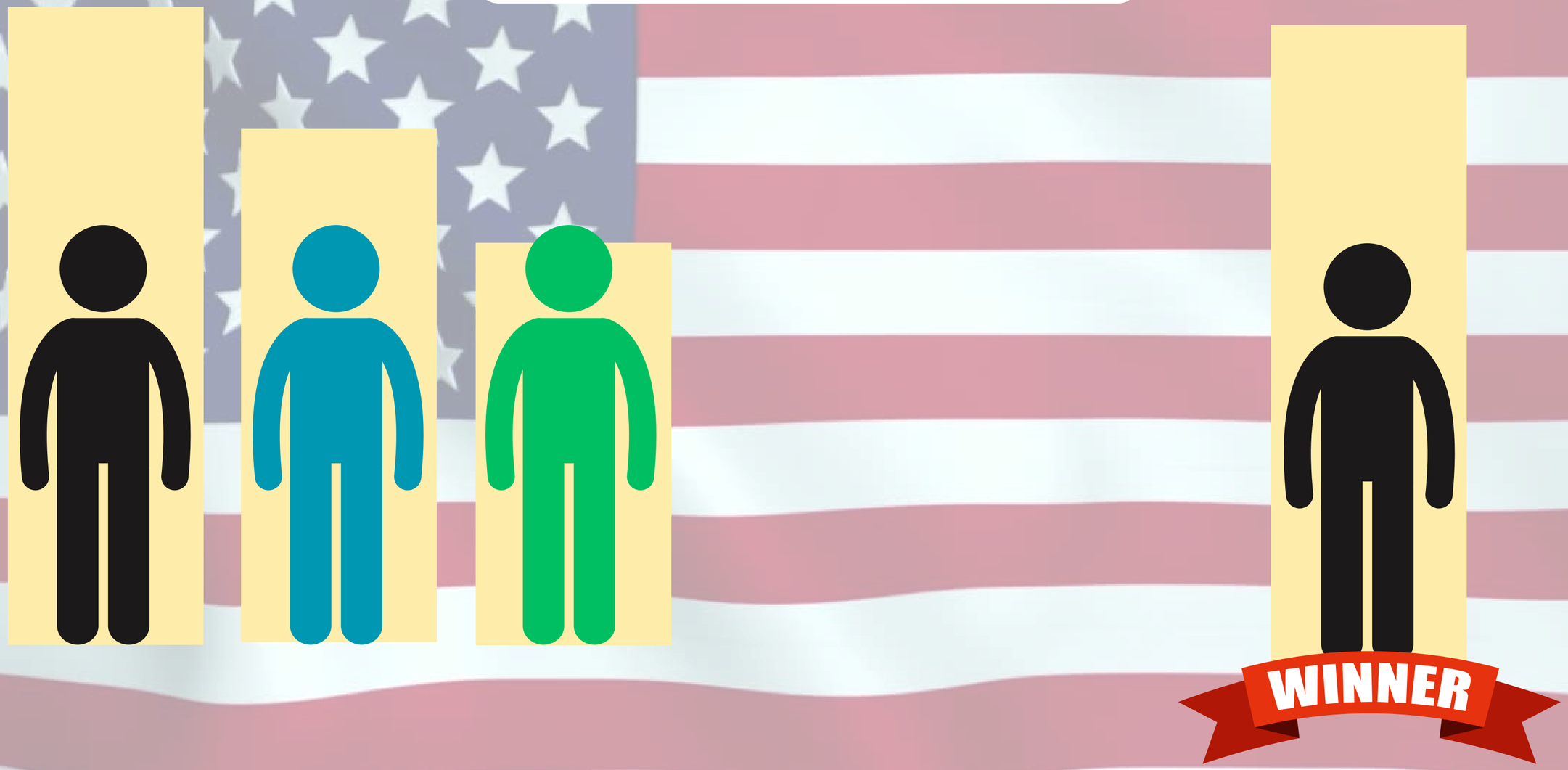
Electoral Systems

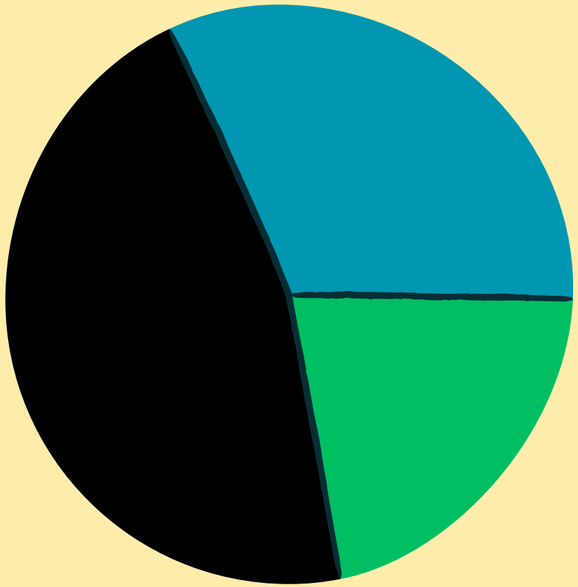
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)



Proportional Representation (PR)

Votes

45% 35% 20%



Seats

Effects on Political Outcomes

- Seats are allocated based on the percentage of votes each party receives.
- Multiple parties are represented in the legislature.
- Voters often feel more satisfied because their votes directly impact the government's makeup..

- Both systems are used to determine the allocation of legislative seats based on votes.
- Both systems aim to represent the will of the voters in the government.

- Used in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Candidate with the most votes in each district wins.
- Often leads to a two-party system.
- Many votes may not translate into representation, which can leave some voters feeling unheard.

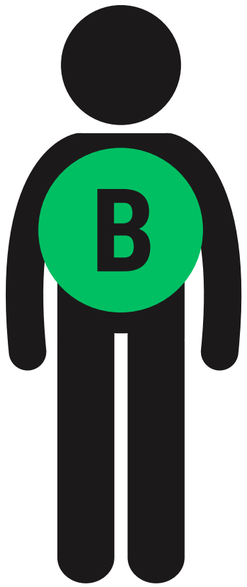
Voter Participation

- Voter participation strengthens democracy.
- Registering to vote ensures your voice is heard.
- Voting rights protect individual freedoms and representation.
- High voter turnout leads to more representative government decisions.

Voter Behavior

- Voter behavior shapes election outcomes.
- High voter turnout can change election results.
- Demographic trends influence which candidates and issues are prioritized.
- Understanding voter behavior helps predict election trends.

The Influence of Voter Behavior in a Local Election



- Young adults (18-30 years) who are mostly students and young professionals.
- Middle-aged residents (31-50 years) who are homeowners and business owners.
- Senior citizens (51+ years) who are mostly retirees.

Task:

Identify Voter Behavior:

- Predict which candidate each demographic group is likely to support and explain why.
- Consider the priorities and concerns of each demographic group.

Analyze Voter Turnout:

- Suppose in the previous election, young adults had a low voter turnout.
- Consider how an increase in young adult turnout could affect this election's outcome.

Evaluate the Impact:

- Explain how a high voter turnout across all demographic groups might affect the election results compared to a scenario where only one or two groups turn out in high numbers.

Reflection:

Reflect on why it is important for all demographic groups to participate in the election and how their participation can shape the policies and direction of their town.

Increasing Political Engagement

Register to Vote: Ensure you're registered to vote and know when and where to cast your ballot.

Stay Informed: Follow news and research issues that matter to you to make informed decisions.

Participate in Discussions: Join school or community groups that discuss political issues and solutions.

Advocate for Issues: Support causes you care about by volunteering, signing petitions, or contacting your representatives.

Assignment

Choose an Issue: Identify a problem or concern related to elections in your community. This could be anything from improving the neighborhood library to increasing funding for youth hangout spots.

Find Your Legislator: Research who your state legislator is. You can do this by visiting your state government's website or using a legislator lookup tool. Make sure you find the correct contact information for your representative.

Write the Letter:

- **Introduction**: Introduce yourself and explain why you are writing.
- **Describe the Issue:** Clearly explain the electoral issue you are concerned about. Include any relevant facts or examples from your community.
- **Propose a Solution:** Offer a potential solution or recommendation for how the issue could be addressed. Be specific and practical.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize your main points and express your hope for their action or support. Thank them for their time and consideration.