

# Geographic Representation Working Group

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# 1. Members

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## 2. Research question

- How does geographic representation affect electoral system design?
- How significant is geographic representation?

## 3. Main issues

- a) What the term “geographic representation” means
- b) Geographic representation and representation by population
- c) Party vs constituent loyalties
- d) Why is geographic representation important?
- e) Why is geographic representation challenging?

## 4. Research summary

- Most of the research focuses on
  - Equality of constituency size (voter equality)
- Three options:
  - One layer of geographic representation eg SMP
  - National (no local representation) eg national list PR
  - Mixed (local and regional representation) eg MMP
    - In mixed systems, might be confusion about the roles of representatives

## 5. Future directions

- Citizens Assembly should discuss:
  - Practical expression of higher-level electoral system principles
  - Mix of plurality and proportionality in system design

# Questions and answers