Wicracy.org

TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN

Basic Variables & Processes Used in Wicracy.org Site

(TDB-041006)
www.wicracy.org/tdb-041006.pdf

April 10, 2006

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Intent

Wicracy.org being founded upon the notion that communication and information are the keys to effective democracy, Wicracy.org policy holds that *disclosure of the function* of the site is necessary to the *purpose* of the site. While minor processes are omitted and a certain amount of alterations and improvements are inevitable, this disclosure should adequately make plain the key processes underlying the primary uses of the site so that criticism of Wicracy.org – which is welcome and encouraged – can be readily undertaken.

Calculated Variables and Related Processes

The Wicracy.org system calculates and displays a number of variables that serve multiple purposes.

- **Plank status**

The plank status variable has three potential values: (i) pending, (ii) adopted and (iii) rejected. Each plank is assigned one of these three values according to the plank status algorithms discussed below.

Plank status is the primary mechanism whereby users establish authority for user-created content in the Wicracy.org application of the Lexary model for user content control. See, Wicracy White Paper "User Control of Content in the Context of Political Parties & Platforms" (providing background information pertaining to the Lexary model).

When a given plank attains "adopted" status, that plank is displayed in the "View Currently Adopted Platform" page of the Wicracy.org site. This page provides a convenient capsule of views that may be authoritatively deemed to be strongly held views of the political party associated with the plank.

- **Weight**

The weight variable has ten potential values: integers 0-9. Each plank is assigned one of these ten values according to the weight algorithms discussed below.

Plank weight is essentially a shorthand evaluation of sample size with respect to the given plank. The higher the plank weight, the greater the number of party members who have taken a position on the plank.

Weight is in turn used as a factor in the formula used to determine the representativeness variable discussed below.

- **Strength**

The strength variable also has ten potential values: integers 0-9. Each plank is assigned one of

these values according to the strength algorithms discussed below.

Plank strength is essentially a shorthand evaluation of the degree of unanimity among party members with respect to the given plank. The higher the plank strength, the more unanimous are party members with respect to the prevailing view on that plank.

Strength is in turn used as a factor in the formula used to determine the representativeness variable discussed below.

- **Representativeness**

The representativeness variable is a percentage. Any individual with a Wicracy.org account can be assigned this percentage value according to the representativeness formula discussed below.

Representativeness offers a measure of the degree to which a given individual represents the prevailing views of his or her party. The higher the representativeness, the more fully the individual's views conform to the party's views.

Quantifying representativeness provides the electorate a means of understanding and predicting the behavior of a particular candidate for office. As such, the representativeness variable may prove to be a powerful mechanism for allowing voters in a democracy to elect the person who truly represents them. That mechanism is superior information.

- **Mootness**

The mootness variable is binary: "moot" or "not-moot". Each plank is originally assigned a value of not-moot.

Certain planks may be time-sensitive, e.g., a plank pertaining to withdrawal from a war. So as to facilitate removal of such planks after they have become moot, e.g., a war has ended, a mootness report mechanism for users is provided, and mootness reports are tallied. If the mootness reports tally exceeds a predetermined threshold, the mootness variable is switched to moot, and the plank is removed from display in the primary pages of the site.

- **Prepublication Review**

Immediately after first being proposed by a Wicracy.org user, a plank is subjected to prepublication review. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the plank conforms to formal requirements. Although reviewers are themselves fallible, the unequivocal duty of reviewers is to disregard entirely all political and ideological content of planks in determining formal compliance.

Prepublication reviewers, a subset of Wicracy.org users, must affirmatively indicate that a proposed plank is not objectionable on any of the predetermined formal grounds, including: incomplete sentence; length of more than one sentence; profanity or vulgarity; inclusion of personal information; serious grammatical or syntax errors. Upon affirmation by a predetermined quantity of reviewers, the plank is published, entering "pending" status.

Algorithms Used to Determine Values

- **Weight and Strength**

For the purpose of simple explanation, assume the following variables:

M = the total # of registered members of the party whose plank is being considered
R = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Ratify" on the plank at issue
O = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Oppose" on the plank
A = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Abstain"
P = O + R + A
S1 = a first strength threshold (percentage)
S2 = a second strength threshold....
S9 = a ninth strength threshold
N1 = the strength value assigned to S1
N2 = the strength value assigned to S2....
N9 = the strength value assigned to S9
W1 = a first weight threshold (integer)
W2 = a second weight threshold....
W9 = a ninth weight threshold
V1 = the weight value assigned to W1
V2 = the weight value assigned to W2....
V9 = the weight value assigned to W9

Steps applying thresholds:

(1) Weight: If P is greater than or equal to W1 but less than W2, the weight of that plank is V1. If P is greater than or equal W2 but less than W3, the weight of that plank is V2, etc.

Thus, if 22 people have taken a position (ratified, opposed or abstained) on a plank, W1 is "10" and W2 is "50", and V1 is "1" and V2 is "2", then the weight of that plank is "1", because 10 < 22 < 50.

(2) Strength: If R/(R+O) is greater than or equal to S1 but less than S2, or if O/(R+O) is greater than or equal to S1 but less than S2, then the strength of that plank is N1. If R/(R+O) is greater than or equal to S2 but less than S3, or if O/(R+O) is greater than or equal to S2 but less than S3, then the strength of that plank is N2, etc.

Thus, if 3 people have ratified a plank, and 2 have opposed it, S1 is "55%" and S2 is "65%", and N1 is "1" and N2 is "2", then the strength of that plank is "1", because
55% < 60% < 65%.

NOTE: Meanwhile, if 2 people have ratified the plank and 3 have opposed the plank, the strength is the same (1), because again 55% < 60% <65%.

- **Plank Status**

For the purpose of simple explanation, assume the following variables:

M = the total # of registered members of the party whose plank is being considered
R = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Ratify" on the plank at issue
O = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Oppose" on the plank
A = the total # of members who have taken the position of "Abstain"
P = O + R + A
T1 = a first threshold (integer)
T2 = a second threshold (percentage)
T3 = a 3rd threshold (percentage)

Steps applying thresholds:

(1) If M is greater than or equal to T1, the first threshold is met, and we go on to applying the second threshold; otherwise, it has not been met, and the plank is still pending. NOTE: when this threshold is met, it is met for ALL that party's planks.

Thus, if there are 20 members of a party and T1 = 15, all of the party's planks have met the first threshold.

(2) If P is greater than or equal to (M*T2), then the second threshold is met, and we go on to applying the third threshold; otherwise, it has not been met, and the plank is still pending. NOTE: this threshold is plank-specific.

Thus, if P = 11, M = 20, and T2 = 50%, that plank has met the second threshold, because 11 > 10.

(3) If R/P is greater than or equal to T3, then the plank is adopted; if O/P is greater than or equal to T3, then the plank is rejected; otherwise, it is still pending. NOTE: this threshold is plank-specific.

Thus, if R = 9, P = 11, and T3 = 66%, then R/P = 82%, and the plank is adopted, because 82% > 66%.

April 7, 2006
Los Angeles, CA

For more information, contact:
Shelton Harrison Enterprises, LLC
www.wicracy.org/contact.php