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Are you frustrated with the world's state of affairs and how your country handles it?

Do you wish there was a better system in place that took the opinions, thoughts, and inputs of everyday people into consideration?

If so, take a look at what:

LIQUID DEMOCRACY & FEEDBACK

Can do to help you solve these issues!

Learn about a modern approach towards a Democracy that is conscious of changing times, as well as the opinion of everyday people. With so much political conflict and discontentment with governmental representatives, this opportunity brings the power back to the people.



2

What is Liquid Democracy?

A form of delegative democracy whereby an electorate engages in collective decision-making through direct participation and dynamic representation. This democratic system utilizes elements of both direct and representative democracy.



What is LiquidFeedback?

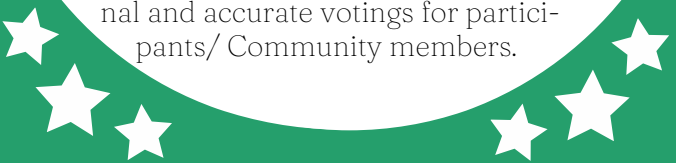
A free software for political opinion formation, decision making, utilizing liquid democracy, etc.

Why are these important for the United States?

Because the United States is a Representative Democracy, we elect officials to represent us from local levels to nationwide governmental decisions. Because our system is bipartisan, we are inevitably forced to choose candidates that *best* meet our needs, values, & opinions. This, however, doesn't always reflect what we truly think or have to say on certain matters, taking the power away from the people and handing it over to political figures to choose on our behalfs.

Liquid Democracy allows for everyday citizens to be direct participants in the decision making that is made from the local level to the federal level. Individuals are also given the option of choosing representatives to vote on concepts we can be unknown to, disinterested in, or more entrusting of another individual and their voting decision.

LiquidFeedback provides a platform to partake in discussions involving political discourse or topics of relevancy and cast in more personal and accurate votings for participants/ Community members.



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Andreas Nitsche

Technology and Democracy • Co-Founder at LiquidFeedback • Thomas Mann Fellow

Andreas Nitsche is a German Computer Scientist with research interest in democratic self organization. His multidisciplinary work focuses on the chances and risks of technology for democracy, social cohesion, inclusion and conflict management. In international events, he delivered talks and conducted workshops on the philosophical, political and technological aspects of deliberation and credible decision making. He is a board member of the Berlin based Association for Interactive Democracy and co-founder of the LiquidFeedback project.

Because of his collaboration with the Thomas Mann Fellowship & UCLA ELTS Studies, a personal interview with Nitsche unpacked the details of this system.



Common Questions ????

Has this ever been implemented into any country, and if so has it been successful?

Organizations in countries such as Germany, Italy, Austria, Norway, France and the Netherlands have adopted Liquid Democracy by using LiquidFeedback. Cities have used LiquidFeedback for citizen consultations.

How do people know if LiquidFeedback is fair in terms of how its algorithms work?

LiquidFeedback offers full transparency in terms of its algorithms, the research behind its technicality and why it works. LiquidFeedback's transparency allows participants to verify the results on their own if participants would like to do so.

How does LiquidFeedback protect minority voices?

LiquidFeedback's algorithms allow minorities to achieve appropriate levels of visibility within the discussion in efforts of proportional representation. Trolling, low effort comments which do not contribute to the discussion are discouraged by design.

Interview Insights

Noisy Minorities

In the United State's context, minorities are connected to those of race and ethnicity. In the context of LiquidFeedback, they're connected a group of individuals that don't make up the majority of what's being discussed/debated. It should be noted that minority in the context of preference aggregation refers to any set of participants holding a common position in regard to a given issue and representing less than 50% of the population. Minorities in this sense reflect the attitude towards an issue and may or may not correlate with properties such as ethnic identity. The term minority is not used as a synonym for marginalized groups. In fact, noisy minorities often consist of somewhat privileged and vocal participants.

Preferential Voting

Participants need not support an option that they may not completely side with. In fact, participants are actually encouraged to develop alternatives featuring their nuanced preferences, so that they can truly express their thoughts without having to limit themselves to predetermined options. Through LiquidFeedback's algorithms, there is no need to worry about similar proposals harming each other due to vote-splitting. Thus, people can express their opinions without having to compromise as a strategy for the option closest to their true preference to win.

Resources

- 1 Andreas Nitsche's Bio- <https://www.vatmh.org/en/tm-grant-recipient-details/grant/480-andreas-nitsche.html>
- 2 Thomas Mann House & Villa Aurora Fellows- <https://www.vatmh.org/en/home-en.html>
Locations: 1550 N San Remo Dr, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 & 520 Paseo Miramar, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.
- 3 *The Origins of Liquid Democracy* by Andreas Nitsche et al.- https://liquid-democracy-journal.org/issue/5/The_Liquid_Democracy_Journal-Issue005-02-The_Origins_of_Liquid_Democracy.html .
- 4 LiquidFeedback - The Democracy Software -<https://liquidfeedback.com/en/> .

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ELTS C101XP - Dr. Kim**