

Referendums

Political Science

Direct votes on a question, and their design problems.

Design issues.

Design questions

Who writes the question

Whether a supermajority is required

Whether turnout thresholds apply

Binding or advisory status

Whether options are fully specified

Known problems

Binary questions on complex issues

One option often undefined in detail

Campaign spending rules vary widely

No mechanism to revisit implementation detail

Educational reference. Where one option is a defined status quo and the other is not, they are not symmetrical choices.