

Response to “IRV Fact Check” “Response to Gierzynski ‘Assessment of IRV’”

The “IRV Fact Check” blog site has posted a series of misleading responses to Anthony Gierzynski’s analysis of Instant Runoff Voting (or IRV). This document contains Anthony Gierzynski’s response to their “fact check.”

Mischaracterizing Gierzynski’s Argument

The authors of the blog posts on Gierzynski’s assessment mischaracterize Gierzynski’s analysis and then critique *their* version of Gierzynski’s analysis (not the actual analysis itself) with pseudo-scientific arguments (not to mention a great deal of personal invective aimed at Gierzynski). To view the analysis by Gierzynski visit <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/IRVassessment.pdf>. The analysis Gierzynski produced simply examines the claims of advocates of IRV, mainly those of the advocacy group FairVote, and finds that *their* claims are problematic when confronting the reality of elections. Gierzynski’s assessment finds that IRV does not result in better outcomes than the current system; the authors of the “IRV Fact Check” posts reframe this as being one in which Gierzynski argues that the current single vote system is superior, which is not what Gierzynski is claiming. The authors of the blog posts (particularly FairVote’s Terry Bouricius) then use this twisted version of Gierzynski’s argument to dismiss the findings that IRV does not always produce winners supported by the majority. Additionally, the critiques of Gierzynski’s assessment fail to directly address or effectively counter the reasoning and evidence at the heart of Gierzynski’s analysis of IRV. Readers can judge for themselves by reading Gierzynski’s assessment at <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/IRVassessment.pdf>.

Readers may also wish to check out Gierzynski’s broader argument about the U.S. electoral system in in general in his recently published (2011) peer-reviewed book *Saving American Elections: A Diagnosis and Prescription for a Healthier Democracy* (http://www.amazon.com/Saving-American-Elections-Prescription-ebook/dp/B005UUG60I/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1323274752&sr=8-2).

On Bias

As part of the personal invective thrown at Gierzynski, the authors of the “IRV Fact Check” blog posts attack Anthony Gierzynski for having a bias against IRV because a former opponent of his won the office of Mayor of Burlington using IRV. This claim is not only absurd at face value (the issue of IRV goes well beyond the politics of Burlington, Vermont, and even within Burlington politics the claim is quite a stretch), it is also hypocritical coming from a blog that is set up by, and whose main contributors are staff of FairVote. FairVote is a special interest group that lobbies for the adoption of IRV; their objectivity should be questioned at least equally given their stake in the adoption of IRV. Their personal invective, demeaning, and unprofessional assaults on Gierzynski (and others who have opposed IRV) should make it clear that their effort is a political campaign on the part of an interest group. Readers can judge the assessment of

IRV written by Gierzynski for themselves by reading it at <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/IRVassessment.pdf>.