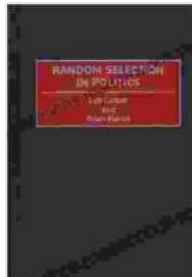# Random Selection in Politics: A Comprehensive Guide

Random Selection in Politics by Lyn Carson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Random selection is a method of choosing people to hold public office or make decisions. It is often used in conjunction with other methods, such as elections or appointments. There are several different ways to implement random selection, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

In this article, we will discuss the different methods of random selection, the pros and cons of each method, and the potential applications of random selection in politics.

Methods of Random Selection

There are several different methods of random selection that can be used in politics. The most common methods include:

- **Lottery:** A lottery is a random drawing in which each person has an equal chance of being selected. Lotteries are often used to select jurors or members of citizen assemblies.

- **Sortition:** Sortition is a process of selecting people by lot from a pool of eligible candidates. Sortition has been used to select members of legislatures and other public bodies in ancient Greece and Rome, and it is still used in some countries today.

- **Citizen assembly:** A citizen assembly is a group of randomly selected citizens who are brought together to deliberate on a specific issue. Citizen assemblies are often used to provide input into policy decisions.

- **Deliberative polling:** Deliberative polling is a method of polling in which randomly selected citizens are brought together to deliberate on a specific issue. Deliberative polling is often used to gauge public opinion on complex issues.

Pros and Cons of Random Selection

There are several potential advantages to using random selection in politics. These advantages include:

- **Fairness:** Random selection is a fair way to choose people to hold public office or make decisions. It gives everyone an equal chance of being selected, regardless of their wealth, status, or connections.

- **Diversity:** Random selection can help to ensure that public bodies are more diverse. This is because random selection is not biased towards any particular group of people.

- **Accountability:** Random selection can help to make public officials more accountable to the people they represent. This is because randomly selected officials are not beholden to any special interests.

However, there are also some potential disadvantages to using random selection in politics. These disadvantages include:

- **Lack of expertise:** Randomly selected officials may not have the necessary expertise to hold public office or make decisions. This is because random selection does not take into account a person's qualifications or experience.

- **Lack of accountability:** Randomly selected officials may not be accountable to the people they represent. This is because they are not elected by the people and they may not have to answer to the people for their decisions.

- **Lack of legitimacy:** Randomly selected officials may not be seen as legitimate by the people they represent. This is because they are not elected by the people and they may not have the support of the people.

Applications of Random Selection in Politics

Random selection can be used in a variety of political applications. These applications include:

- **Selecting jurors:** Lotteries are often used to select jurors in criminal and civil cases. This helps to ensure that juries are fair and impartial.

- **Selecting members of citizen assemblies:** Citizen assemblies are often used to provide input into policy decisions. Randomly selected citizens are brought together to deliberate on a specific issue and make recommendations to the government.

- **Selecting members of legislatures and other public bodies:** Sortition has been used to select members of legislatures and other public bodies in ancient Greece and Rome, and it is still used in some countries today. Randomly selected citizens are brought together to deliberate on important issues and make decisions.

- **Polling the public on complex issues:** Deliberative polling is a method of polling in which randomly selected citizens are brought together to deliberate on a specific issue. Deliberative polling is often used to gauge public opinion on complex issues.

Random selection is a method of choosing people to hold public office or make decisions. It is often used in conjunction with other methods, such as elections or appointments. There are several different ways to implement random selection, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Random selection can be used in a variety of political applications, such as selecting jurors, selecting members of citizen assemblies, and polling the public on complex issues.

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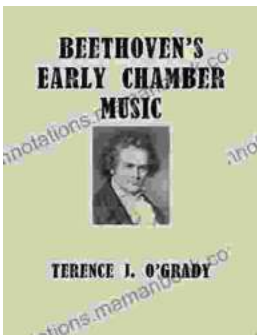|	
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