

Parliamentary Representativeness, Population and Territoriality. Keys to an Open Debate in the Electoral System of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina

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Abstract:

This paper discusses the electoral system of Mendoza Province, Argentina, focusing on the tensions between population-based and territorial representation within its bicameral legislature. Currently, both chambers share identical distribution criteria, leading to redundancy and underrepresentation, particularly in sparsely populated departments. Through a historical-institutional and comparative analysis, the paper examines reform attempts from 1916 to 2020, identifying patterns of continuity and change. Based on these findings, it presents a redesign proposal to optimize population proportionality and territorial representation. The proposal suggests a Senate with 12 electoral districts, ensuring equitable representation through the D'Hondt method. For the Chamber of Deputies, it recommends a single electoral district with open lists, enhancing the connection between legislators and voters. This proposed reform addresses current dysfunctions, aiming to promote a more inclusive and effective democracy that adapts to contemporary societal demands.

Keywords:

Democratic Representation, Population and Territorial Representation, Electoral design, Electoral Underrepresentation.