

Kentucky Catastrophe

The small town Clunkersville in rural Kentucky has fallen into a state of unruliness the last few years and is in need of some changes. The following six projects have been proposed to improve Clunkersville.

- Pave Main St. and Market St. which are currently still dirt roads.
- Install a handicap ramp to the main entrance of the local library.
- Install parking meters by the town post office.
- Renovate an abandoned building into a canine agility training facility.
- Plant flowers in front of all shops lining Main St.
- Install a statue of the town’s founders, Sam and Pat Schrute in front of the supermarket.

The problem is that due to the economic instability of the US economy, Clunkersville is uncertain how much disposable money they will have for these improvements. The town decides to give each resident a ballot with the six projects listed and have the residents rank, in order of preference, the projects by placing an ‘X’ in the appropriate column (See the ballot below). Then the residents mail their completed ballot to the town police. After the police have received everyone’s ballots with the individual rankings, they fill in a ballot to represent the full population of Clunkersville’s opinion by putting the total number of ballots ranking each project in each position.

Now you do **not** know how the residents vote so you can’t fill in the police ballot. However independent of that information, you can discuss methods for which project should be done first (ie. win the vote). This process for *how* to choose a winner is often done ahead of holding a vote and collecting ballots, think of it as the prep work. Devise two different methods for *how* the police department may use the citizens’ rankings to choose the order in which to complete the projects. Then explain what the pros and cons are for each of your methods and discuss whether or not they are ‘fair.’

Project	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Pave Streets						
Handicap Ramp						
Parking Meters						
Canine Facility						
Flowers						
Schrute Statute						
Totals						