

## **MODELS OF DEMOCRACY SCENARIOS**

### **SCENARIO 1**

More than 500,000 households in New York were paying more than half of their income just to pay rent. Despite recognition of the problem, few politicians proposed any concrete solutions.

To reverse this dire situation, housing groups and homelessness advocates knew they would need to reach out to more than just the "usual suspects" concerned with affordable housing. Thus the Housing First Alliance was born from a diverse group including developers, activists, clergy, bankers, and more.

The barriers to these partnerships are significant. For example, many construction unions are unhappy that affordable housing, usually sponsored by non-profit organizations, is often built with non-union labor.

Despite these differences, the groups were drawn together by their common interests in affordable housing, forming and unlikely alliance to attempt to improve conditions within the city.

*-Excerpt from Brad Lander, "New York Housing Coalitions at Work," November 21, 2005*

**Which theory of democracy best explains the scenario above?**

**(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist**

### **SCENARIO 2**

Are you sick of hearing about the 1 percent yet? Well, don't be. The tremendous influence they have on political elections is a non-partisan issue, as far as the 99 percent should be concerned.

Former Louisiana Gov. Charles "Buddy" Roemer pointed out the latest 1 percent fact at a Congressional hearing when he said less than 1 percent of American citizens give 99 percent of all political campaign contributions.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent, talked about wealth disparities and how the power of the rich influences politics in America. "Economically, the United States today has by far the most unequal distribution of wealth income of any major country on earth," he said, "and that inequality is worse today than it was any time since the late 1920s."

Billionaires now have the opportunity to "own" the government for a very small percentage of their wealth, he said.

**Which theory of democracy best explains the scenario above?**

**(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist**

### **SCENARIO 3**

On a cool autumn evening, Kathleen Martell, town clerk for Pelham, Mass., unlocks the doors to the Town Hall and helps arrange chairs in neat rows, enough to seat 115 townspeople. Soon she is joined by town moderator Daniel Robb and the Board of Selectmen. By 7 p.m., town residents occupy most of the chairs and Robb calls the meeting to order. The noisy crowd quiets quickly and so begins a Pelham tradition dating back nearly three centuries.

It quickly becomes clear which topic will be the most contentious when Robb reads Article 2, one of the five warrant articles the town will discuss and vote on, calling for the town to vote to raise the salaries of Pelham's fire chief and its volunteer firefighters. It has been six years since the last salary increase was passed, but a number of residents raise questions about the article's timing and amount.

Before voting begins, Pelham Fire Chief Raymond Murphy makes an impassioned speech in favor of the raises. The final comments before the vote come from Thomas P. Lederle, an elderly man in the front row who speaks eloquently in a clear voice about his recent medical emergency and how the town's firefighters "saved my life." When the voting is done and the ballots are counted, the salary increase passes by a large majority.

*-Excerpt from "America's Oldest Meeting", Governing.com, 2010*

**Which theory of democracy best explains the scenario above?**

**(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist**

#### SCENARIO 4

D.C. voters will decide in June whether restaurants must pay minimum wage to servers who currently are paid a base wage and tips. The D.C. Board of Elections has cleared Initiative 77 for the June 19 ballot.

It would gradually increase the hourly wage for restaurant workers until it matches the District's minimum wage, which is scheduled to rise to \$15 an hour by 2020.

The nonprofit group Restaurant Opportunities Center United is behind Initiative 77. The group argues that tipped workers — mostly women and workers of color — live in poverty at twice the rate of the general population.

The Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington said the initiative will produce dramatic pay cuts and job losses for tipped workers. The association said restaurant owners and their staffs are united in opposition to the measure.

The initiative will require a majority of voters to vote "Yes" in order for the initiative to become law.

*-Excerpt from "Should waiters in DC get paid minimum wage? Voters set to decide", WTOP, 2018*

Which theory of democracy best explains the scenario above?

(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist

#### SCENARIO 5



Which theory of democracy best explains the cartoon?

(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist

#### SCENARIO 6



Which theory of democracy best explains the cartoon?

(A) Participatory, (B) Pluralist, (C) Elitist