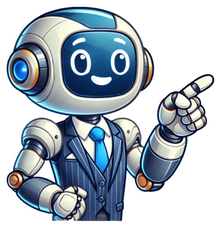
I'm not a bot



Down-ballot voting example

And what's a 'downballot race'? Downballot and downticket are two new words that describe running or voting for offices listed below the most important—typically national—race on a ballot. For instance, in a presidential election, Senate and House seats and contests for state and local offices are downballot (or downticket) because their outcomes are often influenced by the turnout for the presidential race at the top of the ballot. A downticket candidate is a candidate for an office listed below the most important (typically national) office on a ballot Both words began to appear in print in the early 1980s. They were preceded by adverbial phrases such as “down the ballot”: But in a district where the Republican and Democratic candidates for the United States House of Representatives complain that the voters confuse them with each other, does a candidate for the Legislature have to rely on the voter choosing a Presidential candidate and following that column—in this case, Ronald Reagan's—all the way down the ballot? —The New York Times, 26 October 1980 Within a few years, both terms appeared: A down-ballot race just does not attract the attention. —Paris News (Texas), 25 April 1982 Running as a Republican in Mississippi, he knows the odds are against him even with a high turnout. “There’s a lot of voter apathy” he said. “It’s hard to get interest stirred up in the down-ticket races.” —The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi), 4 November 1983 As with many compounds, we see that the hyphens have largely been dropped and the words are now frequently styled as single words. A sign of the newness of downticket may be that The New York Times doesn’t seem to allow it to be used by their writers and editors, but downballot was first used in The Times during coverage of the 2008 election. “Downballot race” and “downticket candidate” are very common adjectival forms, but both words are also used as adverbs: “What they view us as is a trusted validator on why they need to vote, why their engagement is important, why it’s important to vote down-ticket,” he said. “They’re understanding the impact of politics in their everyday lives at the hyperlocal level” in terms of immediate needs like bus and train service and social services. —Michael Moline, Florida Phoenix, 2 November 2020 This new reality has already taken over the presidential race and is starting to trickle down ballot, too. While President Donald Trump's approval rating has improved to 49%, the best of his presidency according to Gallup, Democrats have not gone quiet. —Alex Rogers, CNN, 31 March 2020 Sometimes both the adjective and adverb are used in the same statement: "We are asking our constituents to focus on downticket races," he said. "We will rally Christians all over the country to get to the polls and vote downticket." —Paul Weber, quoted in Newsday, 24 June 2016 Downticket and downballot are used to describe both Democratic and Republican candidates and races: A fiery former President Barack Obama campaigned for Joe Biden and down-ticket Democrats in Atlanta on Monday, slamming President Donald Trump and other Republicans for “empty promises” and selfish politics amid a growing coronavirus pandemic. —Greg Bluestein, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 2 November 2020 “Four years ago, people forgot we had some pretty competitive down ballot races going down in the state and that obviously helps with turnout and helped with President Trump as well,” he said. — Lexi Vennetti, Indiana Public Media, 2 November 2020 In a contentious election year, it's good to know that something is perfectly bipartisan. Words We're Watching talks about words we are increasingly seeing in use but that have not yet met our criteria for entry. The tendency for a popular candidate to attract votes for other candidates of the same party The examples and perspective in this article deal primarily with the United States and do not represent a worldwide view of the subject. You may improve this article, discuss the issue on the talk page, or create a new article, as appropriate. (January 2011) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Part of the Politics seriesVoting Balloting Ballots Absentee ballot Provisional ballot Sample ballot Candidates and Ballot measures Write-in candidate Electorate Slate Ticket Collection Ballot box Compulsory voting Early voting Electronic voting Open ballot Polling place Postal voting Precinct Vote center Voting booth Counting Popular vote Tally Voting machine Electoral systems Plurality and majoritarian systems First-past-the-post voting Two-round system Instant-runoff voting Plurality-at-large voting General ticket Usual judgment Proportional and semi-proportional systems Single non-transferable vote Cumulative voting Binomial system Party-list Single transferable voting Spare vote Mixed-member systems Mixed-member proportional Additional member system Mixed single vote (positive vote transfer) Scorporo (negative vote transfer) Mixed ballot transferable vote Alternative Vote Plus Dual-member proportional Rural–urban proportional Majority bonus system Parallel voting (Mixed member majoritarian) Voting strategies Issue voting Fusion voting Public opinion Split-ticket voting Straight-ticket voting Tactical voting Vote pairing Protest votes Abstention Donkey vote Election boycott None of the above Refused ballot Spoilt vote Voting patterns and effects Coattail effect Voting advice application Likely voter Paradox of voting Passive electioneering Vote splitting Political apathy Voter fatigue Voter turnout Protest votes Electoral fraud and prevention Ballot harvesting Ballot stuffing Voter intimidation Vote buying Voter suppression Voter caging Prevention Election ink Secret ballot Voter identification laws Voter registration End-to-end verifiable voting Politics portalvte The coattail effect or down-ballot effect is the tendency for a popular political party leader to attract votes for other candidates of the same party in an election. For example, in the United States, the party of a victorious presidential candidate will often win many seats in Congress as well; these Members of Congress are voted into office "on the coattails" of the president. This theory is prevalent at all levels of government. Popular statewide candidates for governor or senator can also attract support for down ballot races of their party. This is prevalent in the United Kingdom and Canada especially in a general election. People have a tendency to vote based on a political party instead of the MP for their area. This also refers to the phenomenon that same-party members of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives are more likely to be voted for on a year of the presidential election than a midterm.[1] The "coattail effect" is not usually caused by popular candidates convincing swing voters to cast their ballots for their party, although this is not unheard of. Rather, the effect often stems from popular candidates driving voter turnout among their own party base, people who are likely to vote for down-ballot party candidates anyway. The "coattail effect" has also been used to derogatorily describe the effect of Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs) in Singapore, where candidates for Parliament run on a party slate of 3 to 6 candidates. This allows weak candidates to get elected "riding on the coattails" of strong candidates on their slate. Riding the coattails can be used as a generic metaphor that refers to one who achieves some level of success or notability primarily through association with someone else.[2] Presidential coattails is the ability of a presidential candidate to bring out supporters who then vote for his party's candidates for other offices. In effect, the other candidates are said to ride on the presidential candidate's coattails. Before the introduction of the secret ballot in the late 19th century, voters cast their ballots by taking a ticket provided by a party worker and putting it in the ballot box. The party-column ballot listed all candidates of the party in a single column and allowed the voter to mark off the party box at the top, which encouraged straight-party voting and the coattails effect. Straight-party voting was the norm, and winners in presidential elections often had long coattails. They almost always began their term with majorities in the House and Senate. In modern times voting machines have replaced the party-column ballot with the office-column ballot: candidates are grouped by office rather than party. Often there is no way to cast a party-line vote, and each office must be voted on separately. The proportion of voters choosing House and presidential candidates of different parties increased from 13 percent in 1952 to more than 40 percent in the elections of 1972, 1980, and 1988. Consequently, Presidential coattails were virtually eliminated in those elections, and a number of Presidents, including Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George H. W. Bush, have begun their terms with one or both chambers of Congress controlled by the opposition party. Presidents may suffer from a "reverse coattail" effect in which their party's candidates for the House or Senate get more votes than the presidents themselves. In 1976, for example, Jimmy Carter won the White House with 40,831,881 votes, but Democratic candidates for the House that year received 41,749,411 votes. In 1992, almost all Democrats elected to Congress won more votes in their congressional districts than the party's presidential candidate, Bill Clinton; that may have had to do with the presence of a strong third-party presidential candidate, Ross Perot. There is also the "negative coattail" effect in which a controversial presidential candidate may hurt candidates on the party's ticket running for lower offices. Goldwater's poor showing in the presidential election of 1964 led to the defeat of dozens of Republicans in the House of Representatives, leaving Johnson a large Democratic majority to pass his agenda.[3][4] The negative coattail effect is also common in midterm elections - when a President associated with unpopular policies is not up for re-election, the electorate will often respond by punishing Congressional candidates from the President's own party.[5] The Presidential elections of 1948 and 1952 are the most recent elections in which the same party both won the White House and took control of the House from their opponents.[6] Since 1952, control of the House has changed hands six times, all of which were in midterm elections (1954, 1994, 2006, 2010, 2018 and 2022) and all of which were at the expense of the incumbent President's party. Since the end of World War II, there have been a total of five American presidential elections that had coattail effects: Harry Truman in 1948, Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Ronald Reagan in 1980, and Barack Obama in 2008. Since the office of President of France was re-established under the Third Republic, the presidential term ran for seven years. While the Presidents of the Third and Fourth republics were ceremonial figureheads, the Fifth Republic's constitution brought together a president with considerable executive powers and a prime minister, responsible before Parliament. The president's task was primarily to end deadlock and act decisively to avoid the stagnation prevalent under the French Fourth Republic; the prime minister, similarly, was to "direct the work of government", providing a strong leadership to the legislative branch and to help overcome partisan squabbles. Since 1962, French presidents have been elected by popular vote, replacing the electoral college, which was only used once. This change was intended to give Fifth Republic presidents more power than they might have had under the original constitution. While still seen as the symbol and embodiment of the nation, the president also was given a popular mandate. Of course, the majority party of the National Assembly retained power as well, but since the popularly elected president appointed the prime minister (subject to the approval of the National Assembly), the former was seen as having the upper hand in any conflict between executive and legislature. Furthermore, the imbalance is further illustrated by the fact that the president can dissolve the Assembly at any time (but not more than once in a year), whereas the legislature has no powers of removal against the president. However, even after direct presidential elections were introduced, the presidential term remained at seven years, while the National Assembly's term ran for five. The term imbalance could not guarantee that the President's preferred Prime Minister would enjoy a parliamentary majority, and a risk of cohabitation - a situation of divided government where ideological rivals hold the Presidency and the Premiership - loomed. For this reason, a constitutional amendment to shorten the presidential term to five years was adopted in 2000. After the 2000 amendment, Presidential and national assembly elections were merely two months apart. This resulted in a noticeable coattail effect, where the President's party gains a majority in the National Assembly, even in 2002 (where the Socialist candidate, Lionel Jospin, favored to win in a run-off between him and incumbent Jacques Chirac, was placed third in the first round, with the actual run-off resulting in a landslide for Chirac against far-right candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen) and 2017 (where the presidential race's winner, Emmanuel Macron, ran under the banner of En Marche! - formed in 2016 - instead of an established party). Main article: Group representation constituency Singapore introduced the GRC system in 1988, where candidates for Parliament run and are elected on a slate of 3 to 6 candidates in some constituencies, with a minimum of one minority candidate on each slate. The purported aim was to ensure minority representation in Parliament. However, it resulted in a "coattail effect" where unpopular and even unknown candidates are elected because they ran together with popular candidates (usually Ministers) on the same slate.[7] Despite the official reason cited, it was later stated by former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong that it was used to recruit able people to join politics, particularly since the GRC system reduced the losses of the ruling party. In Singapore, the ruling People's Action Party maintains almost total dominance in Parliament with the GRC system. As of 2015, there were only 6 fully elected Opposition MPs in the 89-seat Parliament. Government trifecta Reagan's coattails Straight-ticket voting Wave election Lead-in and lead-out (in broadcasting) Yellow dog Democrat ^ Magleby, David B.; O'Brien, David M.; Light, Paul C.; Cronin, Thomas E.; Peltason, J. W. (2007). Government by the People, National, State, Local. Prentice Hall. pp. 319–323. ISBN 9780132391498. ^ "Ride Coattails idiom definition". 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Retrieved from " In a year with a presidential election dubbed the most consequential of our time, it figures that the fight between Joe Biden and Donald Trump is getting most everyone's attention. When you fill out your ballot, though, you'll see a number of other names and titles, propositions, and referendums that are asking for your support. If you're like me, you might have been too consumed with what might happen to the White House to do your research about all of these other down-ballot races. There's still time to catch up, though — and I promise it won't take that much effort. Here's the Mic guide to voting down-ballot:Why are down-ballot races important?Sure, the president has a lot of power to sign executive orders, nominate federal judges, or represent the country to foreign nations, but most everything else about your life is determined by your state, county, or city. Taxes, zoning, schools, and spending on entities that gobble up public funding (like prisons) are by and large determined by local officials. Meanwhile, ballot measures and referendums generally determine how your state tax dollars are spent. And your state's representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives dictate how your state's issues are presented on the national stage — and may be the key to securing federal funding for local needs.Though they don't get as much press, members of your city council, school board officials, and local elected judges actually have the biggest impact on your day-to-day life. Want to defund your local police? Take it up with your city council. Think that public schools should offer free SAT tutoring? Talk with your school board members. Want to build a community garden? That may be a task for the city's parks and recreation department. How do I know what down-ballot measures are even on the ballot? Down-ballot items get added to the ballot depending on a state's rules. For instance, in some states a ballot item needs a certain number of signatures, to show that there's broad voter interest, before it actually gets placed on the ballot. In other states, the legislature votes on which measures people will be able to vote on. No matter how they're placed on the ballot, referendums and propositions need your vote. A great place to start to educate yourself is Ballotpedia. You can type in the name of your state, and the search engine will generate a list of candidates for state government, local judges, ballot propositions, and more. Your state's secretary of state's office website is another great resource, as that office runs elections. There, you should be able to find sample ballots, registration information, and voter guides.Some states send voters a voter guide in the mail along with their ballot. If you've received one, you should absolutely take a few minutes to sit down with it, as it includes comprehensive information about each measure on your particular ballot, straight from the source. Be mindful, however, that interest groups and proponents of ballot measures have a hand in crafting the language that describes the items, so read with a little skepticism and supplement that information with your own research. The League of Women Voters, for example, put out a great set of guiding questions for evaluating ballot propositions, which you can check out here.Okay. What else can I do to prepare for down-ballot voting?A good place to start is to seek out an organization you trust, and use its recommendations for how to vote on particular down-ballot measures. Ballot measures are intended to withstand legal scrutiny, which means that they aren't necessarily written plainly or in a way everyone can understand, and a trusted organization can help you parse the real-world affects of a particular proposalIf you're a voter who's most concerned with civil liberties like voting, abortion, or access to public services, then you might want to check out voter guides put out by the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU of Florida offers a justice voter guide, for example, which includes candidate questionnaires and explainers on the importance of elected officials like sheriffs or the state attorney. If you prioritize labor rights, try a guide crafted by a state or local chapter of a union; in California, the SEIU 521 offers a voter hub where they offer recommendations on how to vote on ballot propositions and who to vote for in local elections. If you're primarily concerned with environmental justice, then check out endorsements and voter guides from organizations like the Sierra Club. You can always look for other guides online by doing a Google search for "[organization name] voter guide."Another resource you might want to check out are local newspapers that you trust. The editorial boards of the Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, and Chicago Sun-Times — just to name a few — offer endorsements for their readers. A local newspaper is one of the best places to get a sense of how a particular ballot measure will affect your community. If you tend to agree with the paper's perspective, then their recommendations could be extra helpful in determining how you want to vote.Can I get an example of a proposition?Sure! Here are some down-ballot propositions of consequence at the state level: California Prop 20: a proposition to repeal prison reform legislation, which would likely incarcerate thousands of new individuals.Massachusetts Question 2: an offer for Bay State voters to institute ranked-choice voting.Colorado Prop 115: a proposition to implement an abortion ban at 22 weeks.Washington Referendum 90: a proposal to require public schools to teach sex education.Nevada Question 2: a question as to whether to change the state constitution to recognize marriage regardless of gender. Definition and meaning of down ballot: Down ballot is the term used to refer to electoral contests for local, state, and national elected offices below the office of the President of the United States. This term is often used to refer to races for Congress, state legislatures, governor, judicial positions, and other state and local offices. The term “down ballot” originates from the relatively low position of these offices on the ballot, as the order typically descends from national to local offices. Down-ballot voting is seen as a critical way for citizens to shape their local and state government, as these races are often less visible than national races.Down-ballot races are essential because they directly impact daily life in communities. Local officials, such as city council members, school board members, and county supervisors, make decisions on public education, infrastructure, local law enforcement, and other community services. State legislators influence laws and policies on issues such as healthcare, education funding, and environmental regulations. Judicial elections can affect how laws are interpreted and enforced at the local and state levels. Down-ballot elections hold significant power in shaping policies that directly affect constituents' lives. Voter participation in these elections ensures a more comprehensive and representative democracy, highlighting the importance of informed voting beyond the high-profile presidential elections.Learn more about down-ballot elections on our blog.