

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. The stage features a large projection screen displaying a landscape image. Several banners are visible, including one for 'ESINO LARIO' and another for '12th Wikimania Conference'. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are wearing blue shirts. The room has a high ceiling with stage lighting rigs and speakers.

# An admin's guide to voting and consensus

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Wikimedia UK AGM 2016

# About me

- Christian
- Civil engineering researcher
- Wikimedian
- Goes to conferences and writes about food







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# Wikipedia:Redirects for discussion [\[ edit source \]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Administrator instructions](#)

This page has a **backlog** that requires the attention of one or more administrators. Please change this notice to `{{No admin backlog}}` when the backlog is cleared.

[Skip to table of contents](#) · [Skip to current discussions](#) · [Purge this page](#) · [Archives](#)

**Redirects for discussion (RfD)** is the place where p discussed. Items usually stay listed for a week or so, and are then either deleted or retargeted.

- If you want to replace an unprotected redirect with an article, the process of moving redirects into articles is wholly encouraged. [Be bold!](#)
- If you want to move a page but a redirect is in the way, please discuss it on [Wikipedia:Requested moves/Technical requests](#).
- Redirects should not be deleted just because they have no incoming links. That is not a *sufficient condition*. Please do not use it as the only reason to delete a redirect.
  - Redirects that *do* have incoming links are sometimes deleted too, so it's not a *necessary condition* either. (See [§ When should we delete a redirect?](#) for more information.)

## Before listing a redirect for discussion [\[ edit source \]](#)

Please be aware of these general policies, which apply here as elsewhere:

- [Wikipedia:Redirect](#) – what redirects are, why they exist, and how they are used.
- [Wikipedia:Criteria for speedy deletion](#) – which pages can be deleted without discussion; in

My on-wiki hobby:  
Close difficult discussions  
(and maybe delete things)

- Templates**  
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[today](#) · [all](#) · [closing](#)
- Speedy deletion candidates**

# Keep

Don't move  
Don't merge  
Endorse previous

Don't change

No consensus,  
default to keep

# Delete

Move  
Merge  
Restore

Change something



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# Wikipedia:Polling is not a substitute for discussion [\[ edit source \]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
(Redirected from [Wikipedia:Consensus is not a vote](#))

*"WP:Vote" redirects here. For other issues related to voting on Wikipedia, see [WP:Voting](#).*



**This page is an [essay](#)**, containing the [advice](#) or opinions of one or more Wikipedia contributors. Essays are *not* [Wikipedia policies or guidelines](#). Some essays represent widespread norms; others only represent minority viewpoints.

**Shortcuts:**  
[WP:PNSD](#)  
[WP:POLL](#)  
[WP:VOTE](#)

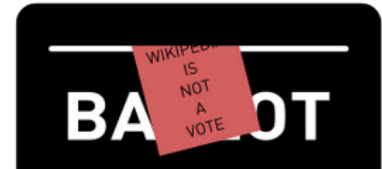


**This page in a nutshell:** Some decisions on Wikipedia are not made by popular vote, but rather through discussions to achieve consensus. Polling is only meant to facilitate discussion, and should be used with care.

Wikipedia works by building [consensus](#). When conflicts arise, they are resolved through discussion, debate and collaboration. While not forbidden, polls should be used with care. When polls are used, they should ordinarily be considered a *means* to help in determining consensus, but do not let them become your only determining factor. While polling forms an integral part of several processes (such as [Wikipedia:Articles for deletion](#)), polls are generally not used for [article development](#). Remember that [Wikipedia is not a democracy](#); even when polls appear to be "votes", most decisions on Wikipedia are made on the basis of [consensus](#), not on [vote-counting](#) or [majority rule](#). In summary, **polling is not a substitute for discussion**.

“Most decisions on Wikipedia are made on the basis of *consensus*, not on *vote-counting* or *majority rule*.”

s, which has been determined by  
rel of 70% or higher usually  
nts. In addition, "higher"  
([Timbo Wales](#)) on occasion can



• Speciousness → wiktionary:speciousness (links · history · stats) [ Closure: keep/retarget/delete ]

• Speciosity → wiktionary:speciosity (links · history · stats) [ Closure: keep/retarget/delete ]

I don't really like wiktionary redirects as they are rarely useful. These are no exception. Oiyarbepsy (talk) 04:47, 13 June 2016 (UTC)

• Keep The first two get about 6 hits a month and the third gets 10 hits a month over the last 11 months. People are searching for them and AFAIK there's no good wikipedia article. These are good candidate for soft redirects to Wiktionary per WP:NOTDIC and Template:Wiktionary Redirect (where NOTDIC says the criteria for soft redirecting are). If you do not agree with this policy, start an RFC. Until then, this outcome is acceptable under policy, give or take what people consider high enough search volumes. --- Patar knight - chat/contributions 06:22, 13 June 2016 (UTC)

• Keep pretty obvious keep, honestly, given that there's a Wiktionary page and no relevant Wikipedia article. Ed [talk] [majestic titan] 06:58, 13 June 2016 (UTC)

• Keep - I agree with the above arguments. CoffeeWithMarkets (talk) 13:06, 13 June 2016 (UTC)

• Delete I don't believe readers regularly search for "speciosity" as per {{wi}} and the hits that do show up are because they are looking for other terms and find it curious. There is an article for Specious present though. A search on news and books for speciosity refers mainly to a particular quote by Thomas Carlyle "Seek only deceitful Speciosity, money with gilt carriages, 'fame' with newspaper paragraphs, whatever name it bear, you will find only deceitful Speciosity; godlike Reality will be forever far from you.... " So it is not used in regular communications. But are you trying to frame it like Specious? If so, redirect all variants to that and add wiktionary lookups for it. AngusWOOF (bark · sniff) 16:00, 13 June 2016 (UTC)

• Keep per above. —Compassionate727 (T-C) 15:25, 14 June 2016 (UTC)

• Delete as I'm not convinced by the page view stats. I usually are well under that, keeping WP:NOTDIC in mind. -- Tavix (ta

Relisted to generate a more thorough discussion and clearer

Please add new comments below this notice. Thanks, Steel1943 (talk)

• Keep per Patar knight. PaleAqua (talk) 17:20, 25 June 2016

• Delete per Tavix. Mass Wiktionary redirects for rare word for that principle and try to make Wikipedia function as a dictionary trump that. --BDD (talk) 17:33, 5 July 2016 (UTC)

The above discussion is preserved as an archive of the debate. Please do not modify it. Subsequent comments should be made on the appropriate discussion page.

...how often do you actually see full consensus?



• **Draft:GKM variety** – As there is nothing to restore, there is no reason to keep this open. – — **Coffee** // **have a cup** // beans // 04:10, 30 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

**22 May 2016** [ edit source ]

• **Prabodhanam** – Speedy deletion overturned and AfD relisted. Closing early because of unanimous consensus. – **Sandstein** 16:02, 24 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

**21 May 2016** [ edit source ]

• **Crazy Eyes Crew** – **Endorse** – — **RoySmith** (talk) 22:49, 28 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

• **John Bambenek** – **Speedily closed**. Mr Bambenek has been discussed so often that he has his own entry at WP:DEEPER which states that re-creation will not be considered until an established editor presents a sourced draft. – — **S Marshall** T/C 17:19, 21 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

**20 May 2016** [ edit source ]

• **Draft:Push and Shove (song)** – **Non-admin closure overturned to "delete"**. There is a consensus to overturn the contested non-admin closure, and a slightly less clear but sufficient consensus to re-close the discussion as "delete". To the extent there might be uncertainty about the "delete" part, if I had concluded that there was no consensus here for that outcome, I would have re-closed the reopened discussion as "delete" based on the consensus found in the discussion, so we get the same outcome either way. I would like to remind **Hasteur** (talk · contribs) that non-admins should close only uncontroversial and clear deletion discussions; as this review shows, doing otherwise often leads to disruptive controversy. – **Sandstein** 09:42, 29 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

• **GeForce GTX 1070** – **Endorse** – — **RoySmith** (talk) 13:21, 27 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

**19 May 2016** [ edit source ]

**18 May 2016** [ edit source ]

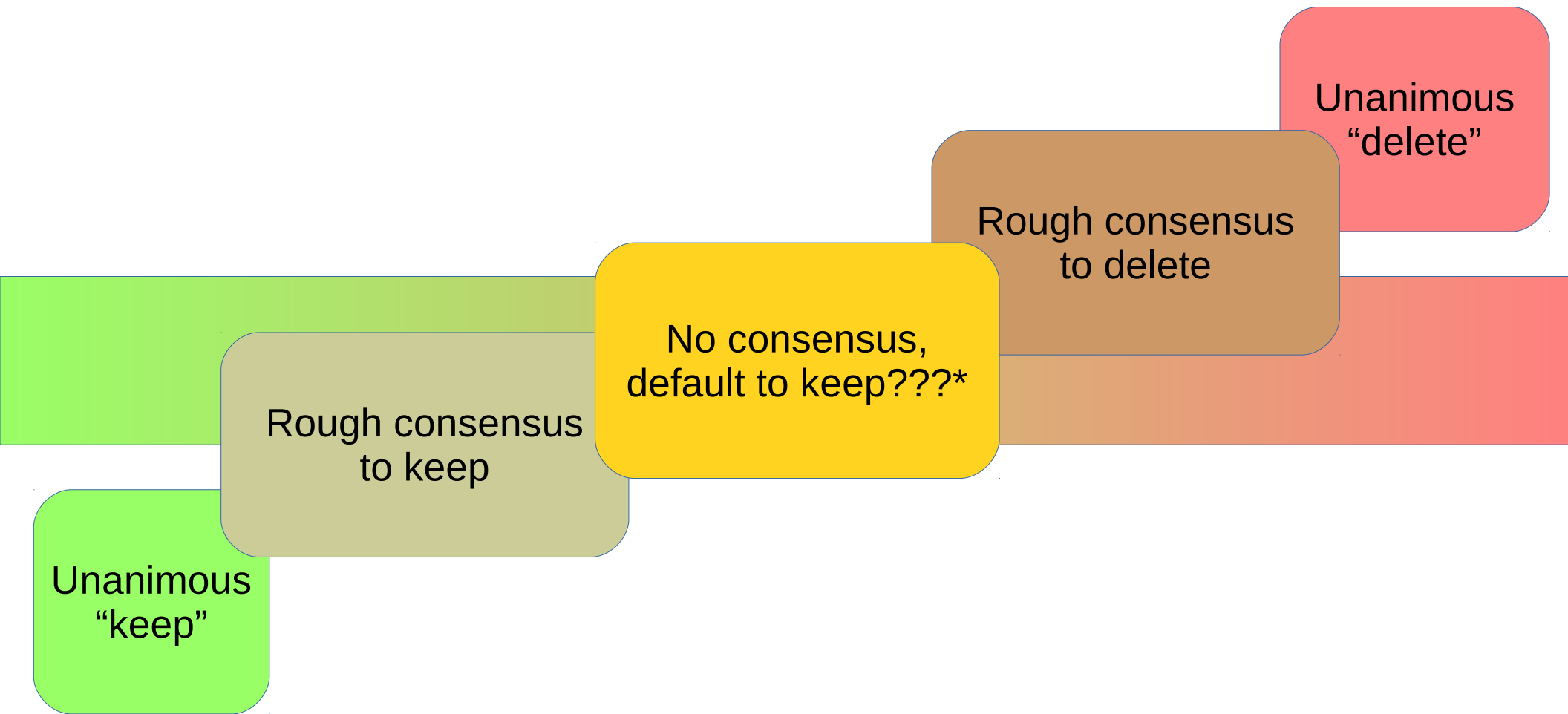
• **Allen Career Institute** – **Endorse** - All comments besides that of the requestor were in support of the closure. The requestor's reasoning both here and in the close itself in regard to their rationale behind the close was not persuasive. [show]

**17 May 2016** [ edit source ]

• **Cambridge\_Tolkien\_Society** – **Withdrawn** after all opinions offered were to endorse the closure. – **Sandstein** 13:58, 18 May 2016 (UTC) [show]

[[WP:DRV]]  
the appeals court

# Range of opinion



\*Matthews' law of triviality for Wikipedia applies





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# Wikipedia:Deletion review/Log/2016 January 18 [edit source]

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## 18 January 2016 [edit source]

- Perfumedly** – **No consensus**. Opinions are roughly evenly divided, which means that the "no consensus" closure is upheld by default. This allows a renomination after a reasonable time. – Sandstein 14:57, 26 January 2016 (UTC) [hide]

The following is an archived debate of the deletion review of the page above. Please do not modify it.

Perfumedly (talk | edit | history | logs | links | watch) (XfD | restore)

In a somewhat unusual move, I'm requesting the wider community to sc... the matter with me.

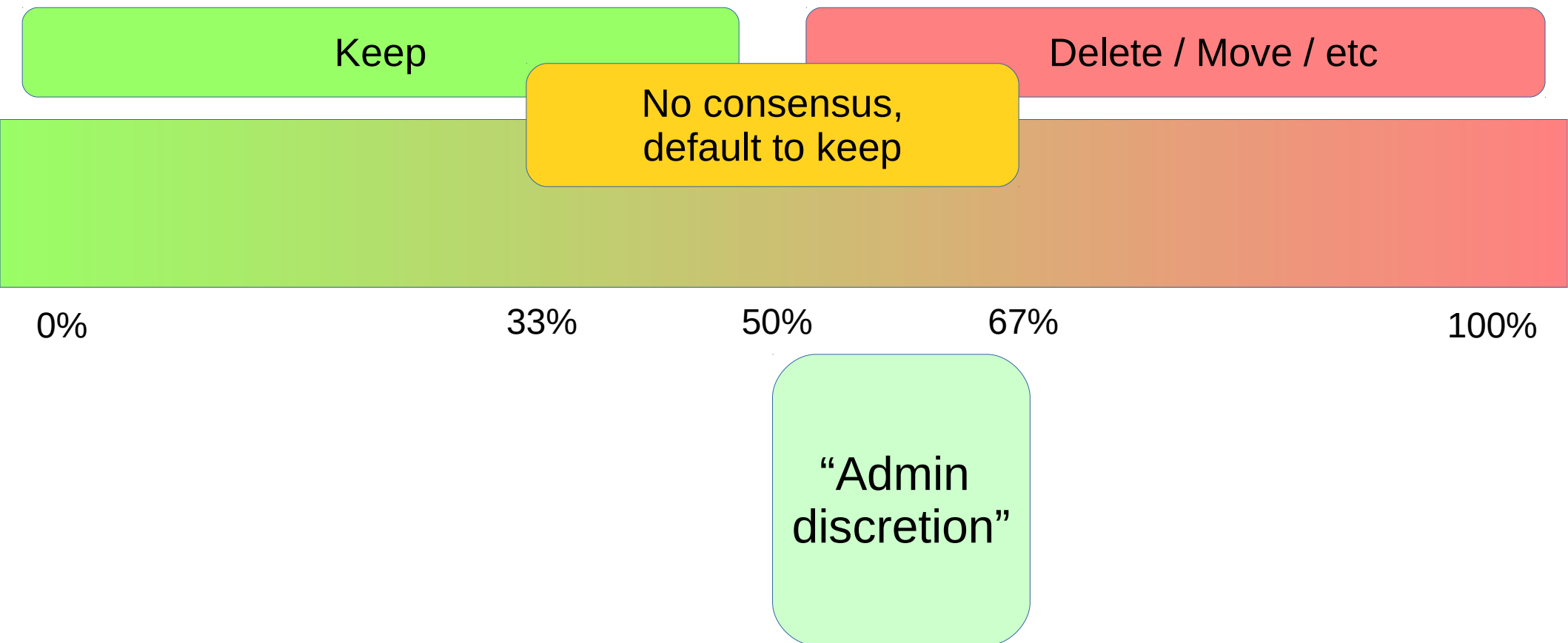
The RfD concerns two redirects from obscure words to a common word... complication was that these redirects were created by Neelix, which is a... was 7:3 towards delete with solid arguments on both sides. I closed it as... to delete; Legacypac disagrees. I think the main arguments have already... generate a similar ratio of head count.

So my question for the DRV community is, that at what level of majority or argument strength do we move from no consensus to action? Deryck C. 22:35, 18 January 2016 (UTC)

- Support delete aka Overturn and delete** in my observations processing literally thousands of Neelix redirects we delete with a simple majority, absent one side having vastly stronger arguments or compelling new info need the end of the RfD. Neelix created thousands of useless redirects (and others) from obscuringly or inventedadly wordingishly (there is overlap between these groups because more then one person is likely to invent the same fake word by adding valid suffixes to valid regular words), including in old books. In these two cases the words get under 400 google hits each including all the Wikipedia mirrors, and sites that scrap content from here for anagrams, online dictionaries etc. Wikipedia is so powerful that if we create a redirect from duckinglyish => Swanidly within a few months searches will show several hundred results of my new words defined as I wrote them. Therefore we do a big disservice to allow fake words here. Legacypac (talk) 23:02, 18 January 2016 (UTC)
- Endorse closure** - I believe that your close was reasonable and well within discretion, which it was necessary and appropriate to exercise in an unusual case such as this. The "because Neelix" comment really does talk about as much in the face of my opposition. That leaves similar

An academic takes himself to the appeals court

# Rough guide to closures





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# Wikipedia:Of course it's voting [\[ edit source \]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



**This page is an [essay](#)**, containing the [advice](#) or opinions of one or more Wikipedia contributors. Essays are *not* [Wikipedia policies or guidelines](#). Some essays represent widespread norms; others only represent minority viewpoints.



**This page in a nutshell:** Consensus is [weighted voting](#).

Oft-heard on Wikipedia is the notion *Consensus is not voting!*, most often by an editor on the short end of a vote. Any serious evaluation of common Wikipedia practices leads to the realization this is not true. If consensus was truly not voting, the following logical consequences would occur:

**Shortcut:**  
[WP:OFCOURSE](#)

- Votes of the form "support per nom," or "oppose per John Doe" will not be allowed and summarily removed from conversations.
- We wouldn't care about socking in discussions.
- There would be no [snow](#) closes.

In fact, the [policy page itself](#) links to an [information page which explains](#): "If the discussion shows that some people think one policy is controlling, and some another, the closer is expected to close by judging which view has the **predominant number** of responsible Wikipedians supporting it, not personally select which is the better policy. He or she is not expected to decide the issue, just to judge the result of the debate, and is expected to know policy sufficiently to know what arguments are to be excluded as irrelevant."

(emphasis added)

What this means in practice is although consensus is voting, it is weighted, not all votes count, nor count the same. IPs, accounts created five minutes before posting a vote, and editors who are obviously bat-shit crazy<sup>[1]</sup> probably will not have their votes counted, or counted less than established editors.

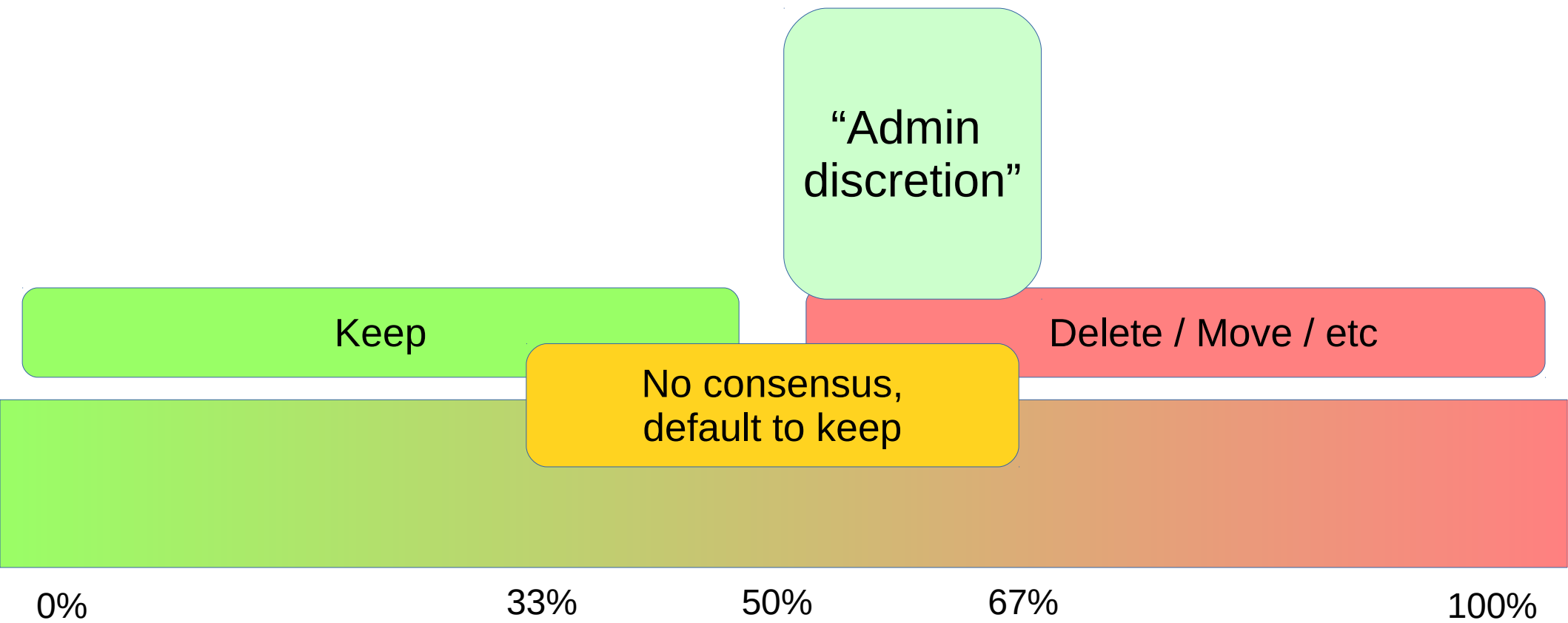
## See also [\[ edit source \]](#)

- [Wikipedia:WikiProject Democracy](#) - centralized links to all votings, elections etc.
- [Wikipedia:Voting](#) - a list of policies and essays on voting in wikipedia

# Further ideas (complications)

- Whom do you count?
  - “Canvassing”
- Discussions with  $\geq 3$  suggested outcomes
  - e.g. RfD delete, retarget, keep
- Don't absolve responsibility
- Use this as a guide, then justify any deviation





Now go and close some discussions!

# Attribution

- Slides 1, 2: Photography by Deryck Chan
- Slide 2: Burning Globe, Wikimania 2016
- [\[\[Wikipedia:Redirects for discussion\]\]](#)
- [\[\[Wikipedia:Redirects for discussion/Log/2016 June 23\]\]](#)
- [\[\[Wikipedia:Deletion review/Log/2016 May\]\]](#)
- [\[\[Wikipedia:Deletion review/Log/2016 January 18\]\]](#)
- [\[\[Wikipedia:Of course it's voting\]\]](#)