Anna Popova* (apopova2@uiuc.edu), 603 E Daniel str., Champaign, IL 61820, and Michel Regenwetter (regenwet@uiuc.edu), 603 E Daniel str., Champaign, IL 61820. Concensus among Concensus Methods. Preliminary report.

Social choice theory in Economics and Political Science has highlighted that competing notions of rational social choice are irreconcilable, because of impossibility theorems and computer simulations. Do concensus methods disagree so much in reality? We report on a behavioral social choice comparison of Condorcet, Borda, Plurality, Negative Plurality, STV, Coombs, and Plurality Runoff one, using several data sets from American Psychological Association presidential elections. The empirical findings contradict theoretical expectations. Behavioral research in social choice may reveal many future surprises. Explaining the empirical agreement among social choice outcomes is an open problem (Regenwetter, 2009, Perspectives on Psychological Science). (Received September 14, 2009)