1077-L1-2651 Ben Galluzzo* (bjgalluzzo@ship.edu), Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Department of Mathematics, Shippensburg, PA 17257. Candy Bar Election.
Accessible mathematics and a (seemingly) non-stop election cycle make voting theory a popular topic for liberal arts focused mathematics courses. While the alternative voting methods (and ballots) make for interesting "what-if" scenarios, the lack of "hands-on" experience leads students to question why such methods even exist. In this talk, we will discuss the Candy Bar Election; during which students caucus, campaign, and vote for their favorite candy bar(s) and voting method(s). The data collected from the vote is analyzed by students allowing them to better understand, and actively experience, how different mathematical approaches to solving the same problem can effect significant change. (Received September 22, 2011)

