Robust Voting under Uncertainty*

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Abstract

This paper proposes a new normative criterion for voting rules under Knightian uncertainty about individuals' preferences. A voting rule is said to be robust if, for any probability distribution of preferences, the responsiveness of at least one voter is greater than one-half. The main result of this paper shows that a voting rule is robust if and only if it is a weighted majority rule without any ties. Robustness is a stronger requirement than weak efficiency because a voting rule is weakly efficient if and only if it is a weighted majority rule in which ties are allowed with an arbitrary tie-breaking rule.