



“Committee-Gatekeeper Games: With Bad Stick Figures”

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POLS 4620E
Lecture #13
University of Georgia

Bad Stick Figures: Outline

Introduction

- a. Announcements
- b. C-G Game

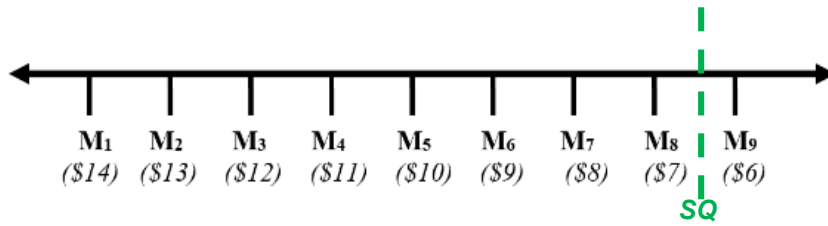
Committee-Gatekeeper Games: With Stick Figures

Conclusion

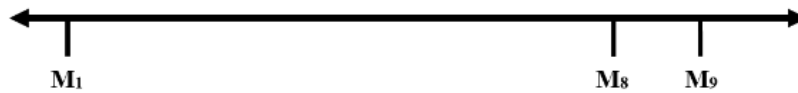


Above: George Cassidy, the “man in the green hat,” Congress’ bootlegger during prohibition.

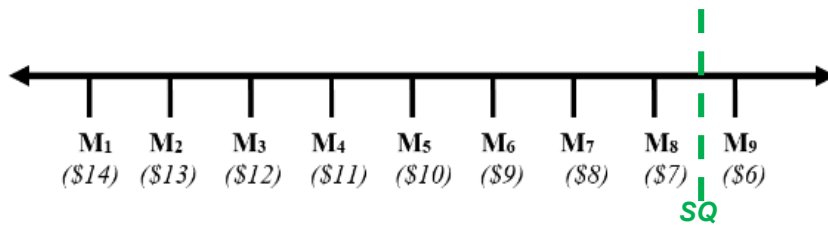
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



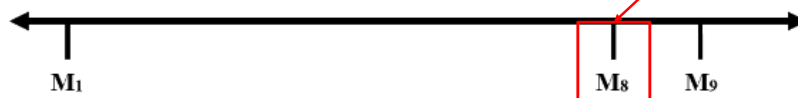
Let's assume the same figure above represents the preferences of members on the floor, though with the SQ falling at \$6.50. But let's assume the figure below represents a three-member committee that oversees the relevant policy area. Assuming simple majority rule on the committee, where will the committee's proposal be located?



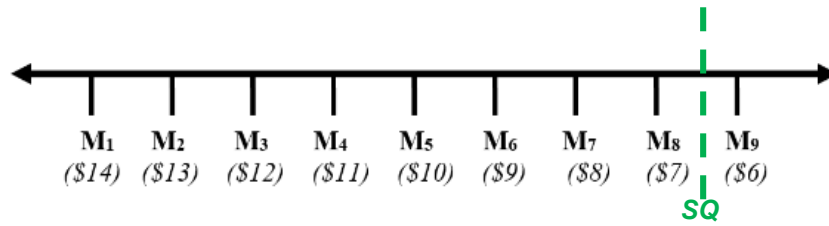
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



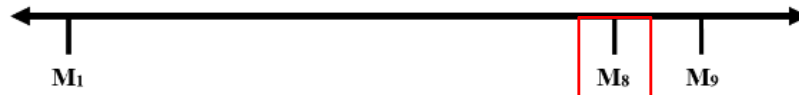
That's right! Under the median voter theorem, policy would collapse to M_8 , the committee's median position. So the committee bill would provide for a \$7 minimum wage.



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



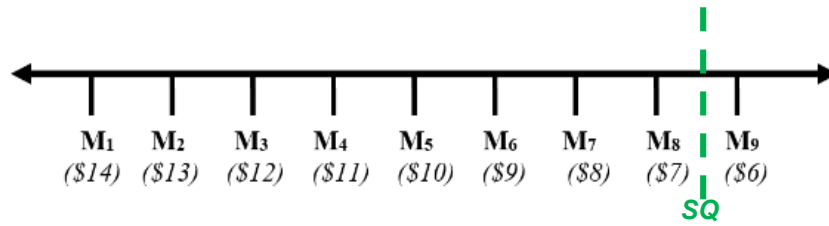
Given this, should the committee report the bill to the floor under an open rule? Remember: Under an open rule, they know that their bill will be amended to the floor median, M_5 .



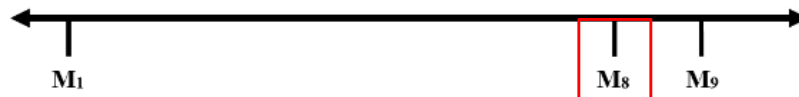
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule

ANSWER ON NEXT SLIDE

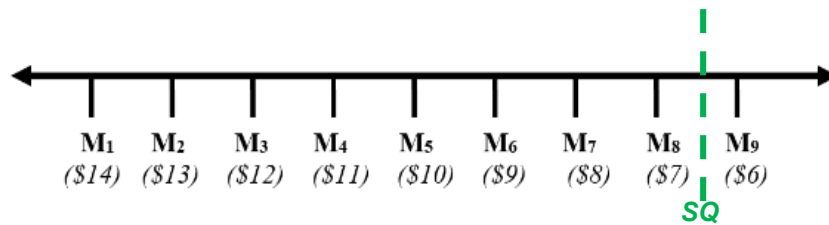
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



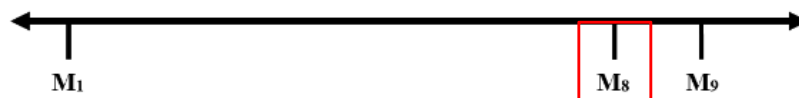
Correct! The Committee would **NOT** report the bill because they know policy would collapse to the median, M_5 , under an open rule. And a majority of members on the committee (M_8 and M_9) prefer the status quo to M_5 .



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule



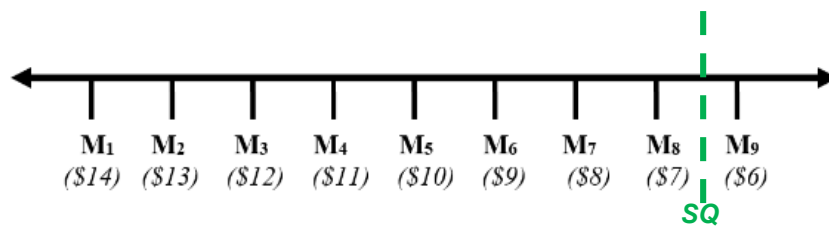
Given the committee's proposal and the status quo, under a closed rule *should the committee report the bill to floor?* Why or why not? Remember: under a closed rule the floor will be forced to either vote for the committee's bill or the status quo.



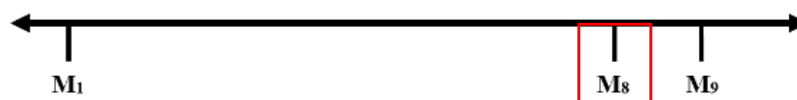
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule

ANSWER ON NEXT SLIDE

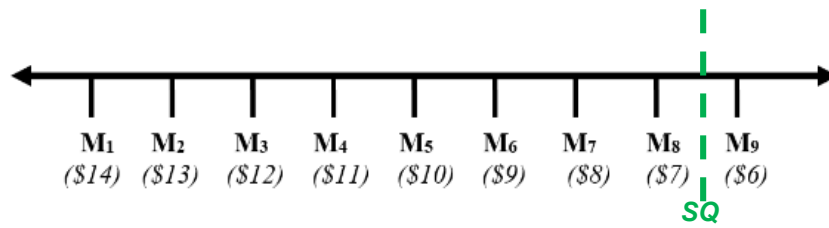
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule



Correct! The Committee **WOULD** report the bill because they know a majority of the floor would prefer their bill, M_8 , to the status quo under a closed rule.

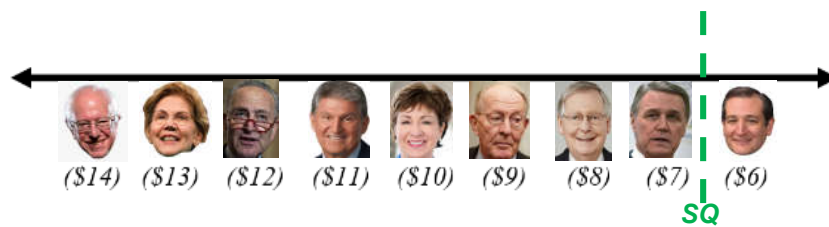


Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



Sometimes the notation will confuse students. So let's try this game again, but replace M_1 - M_9 with pictures.

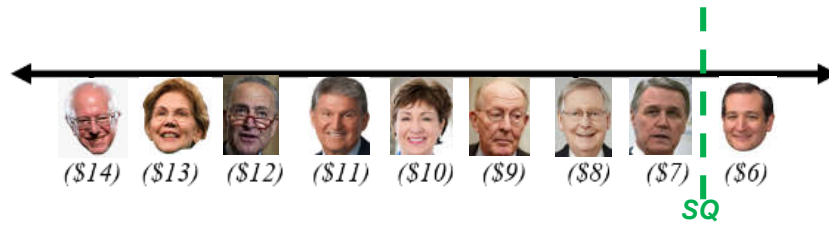
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



The figure above still represents a fictional 9 person legislature. These nine members are ordered on a left (liberal) – right (conservative) ideological spectrum, with Bernie being the most liberal and Ted the most conservative.

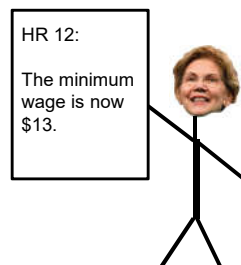
These members hold preferences on the federal minimum wage that vary from \$14 dollars (Bernie) to \$6 dollars (Ted). In this example, the **dashed green line labelled SQ** represents the existing (status quo) policy of \$6.50.

Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



If a bill is reported to the floor under an open rule, anyone can offer an amendment. What does that mean?

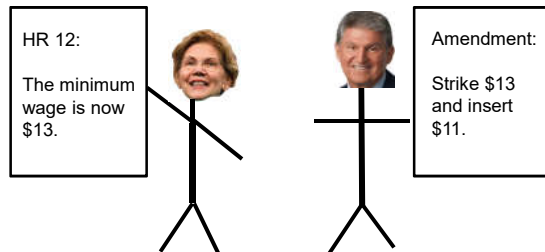
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



Let's say Elizabeth brings a bill to the floor that sets the minimum wage at her ideal point of 13 dollars. Look! She looks happy.

Also, shut up, let's see you draw a better stick figure in powerpoint.

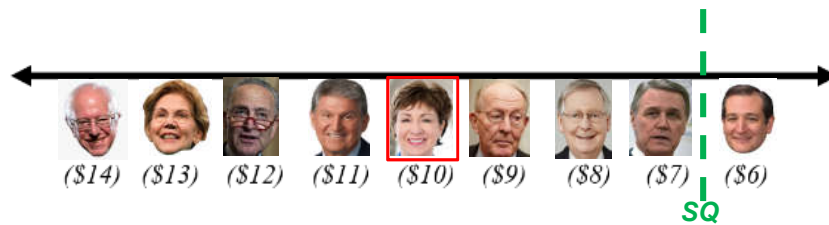
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



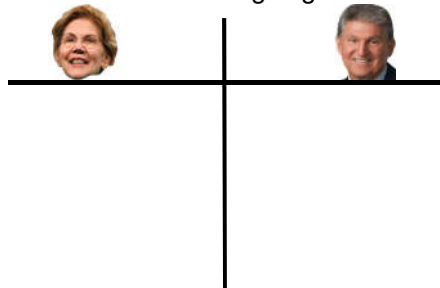
But oh no! Joe has come to the floor and wants to amend her bill to his preferred minimum wage of \$11.

The floor has to vote. Who prefers Joe's amendment of \$11 dollars? Who votes for Elizabeth's \$13 proposal? Let's check the preferences again.

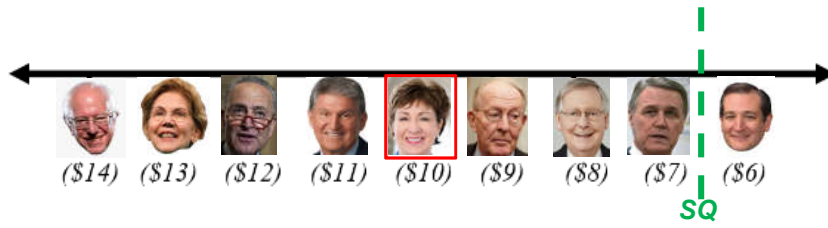
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



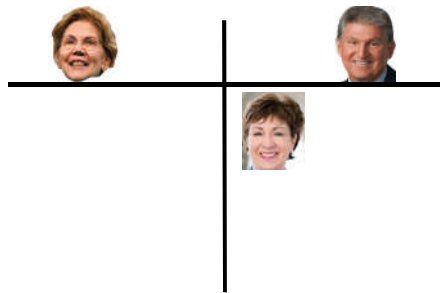
Who supports Elizabeth's \$13 proposal? Joe's \$11? Let's start with Susan. She wants 10 dollars. So she's 1 dollar away from Joe's amendment, but 3 dollars away from Elizabeth. So she's going to vote for Joe.



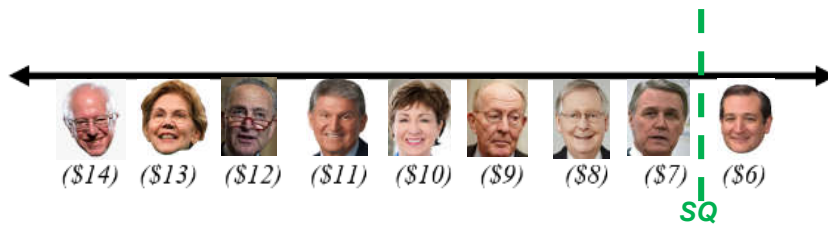
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



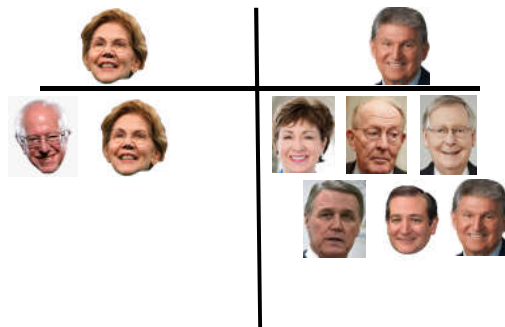
Let's put her in Joe's column. Do this for the remaining members.



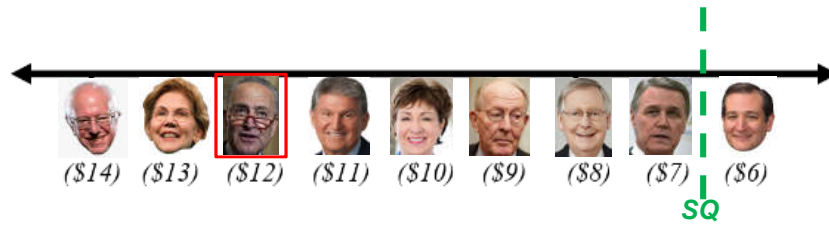
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



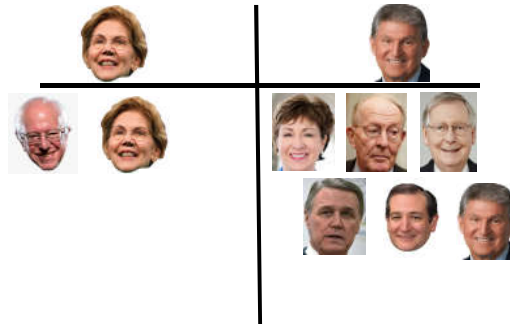
Bernie and Elizabeth vote for Elizabeth. Joe, Susan, Lamar, Mitch, David and Ted vote for Joe. His amendment is adopted 6-2.



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



Note: Because he is one dollar away from both proposals, Chuck is “indifferent” and under the rules of this game, does not vote.



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule

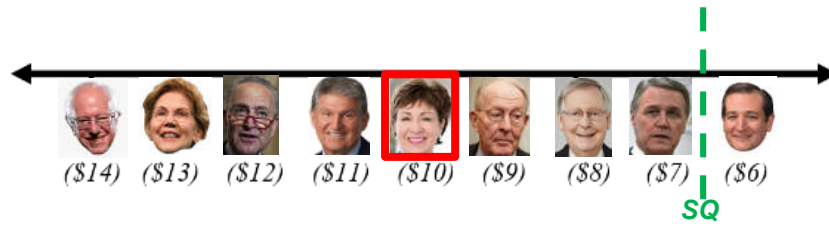
HR 12:
The minimum wage is now
~~\$7.~~
\$11.



Elizabeth is now sad. Joe is celebrating. (Note: According to the Wall Street Journal, the real life Joe Manchin celebrates with a fish sandwich from Arby's. This should disqualify him from higher office).

But what happens to Joe's preferred position if Ted wanted to offer an amendment? What about Susan?

Committee-Gatekeeper Game: MVT



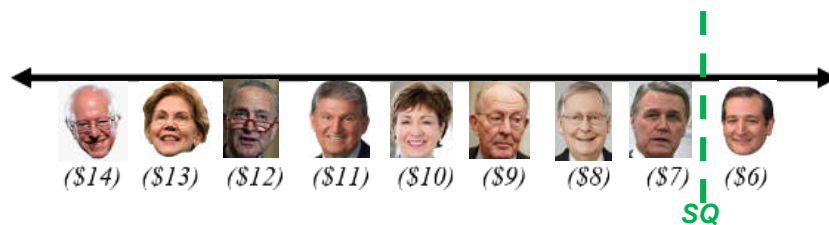
If you match everyone's proposal up in a head-to-head match up the same way we just did, the only person who never loses is Susan. Her \$10 proposal would beat Lamar's \$9 dollar proposal 5-4, and Joe's \$11 proposal 5-4.

Everyone else she would beat by even greater margins.

Don't believe me? Try and work through it.

This is the **median voter theorem** in action.

Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Winset

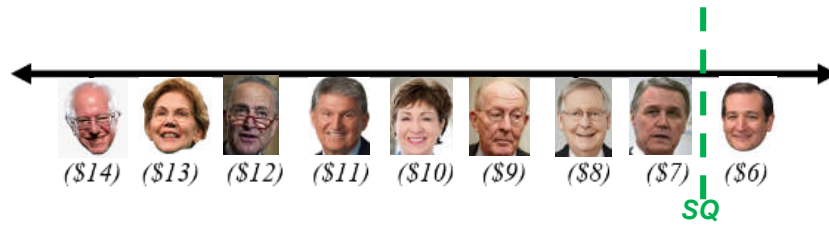


The **winset** is the set of a point that could beat a given point in a head to head match-up.

So the "winset" for Chuck's \$12 proposal would include Joe's \$11, Susan's \$10 and Lamar's \$9.

Mitch's \$8 proposal would garner 4 votes and Chuck's \$12 proposal would garner 4 votes (with Susan indifferent). Accordingly, they would tie and Mitch is not in the winset.

Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule

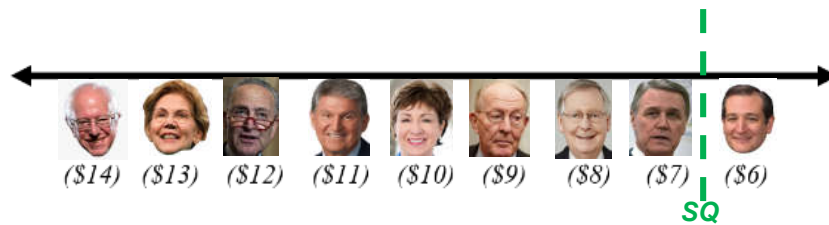


So let's try the committee gatekeeper game again.

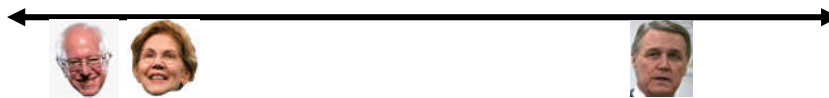
The figure above still represents a fictional 9 person legislature. These nine members are ordered on a left (liberal) – right (conservative) ideological spectrum, with Bernie being the most liberal and Ted the most conservative.

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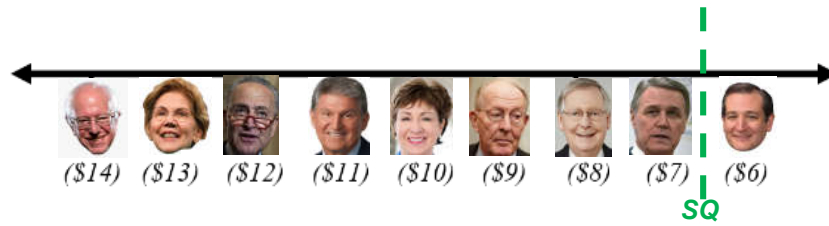
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



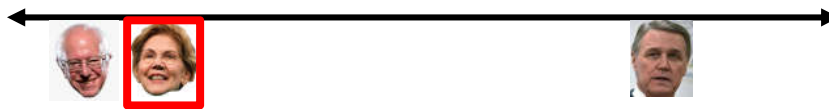
The figure below represents a three-person committee that is charged with drafting the bill. What is the minimum wage provided for under the committee bill?



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



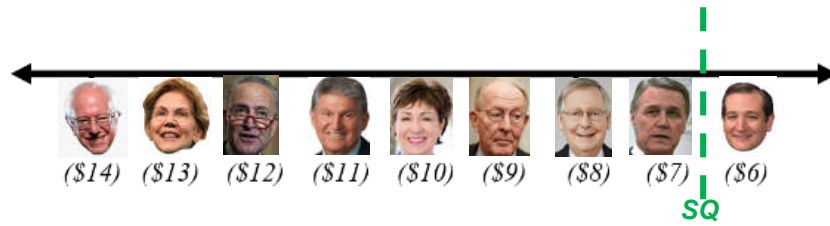
That's right—it's \$13 dollars, because Elizabeth is the committee median. Given this, should the committee report the bill to the floor under an open rule? Remember: Under an open rule, they know that their bill will be amended to the floor median, Susan.



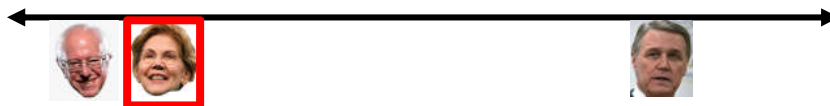
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule

ANSWER ON NEXT SLIDE

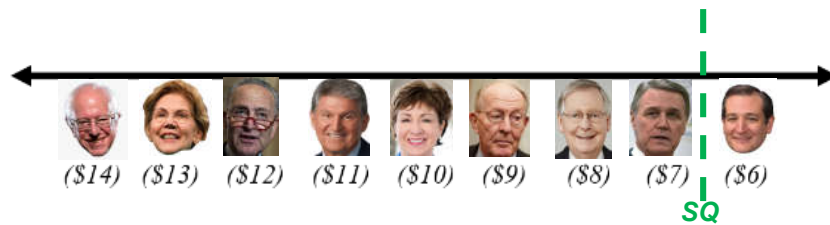
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Open Rule



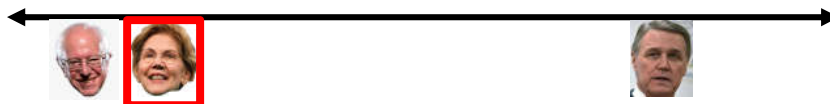
Correct! The committee **WOULD** report the bill to the floor under an open rule. Because Bernie and Elizabeth prefer Susan's \$10 amendment to the SQ of 6.50.



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule



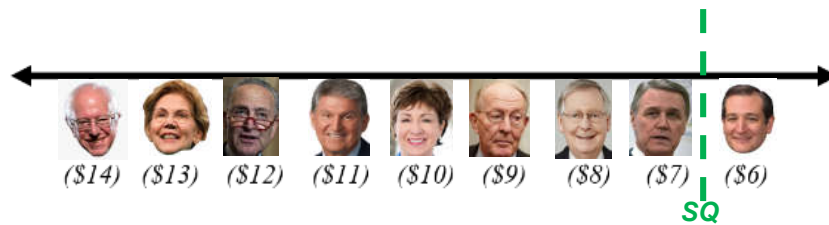
Ok. But what about a closed rule? *Should the committee report the bill to floor?* Why or why not? Remember: under a closed rule the floor will be forced to either vote for the committee's bill or the status quo.



Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule

ANSWER ON NEXT SLIDE

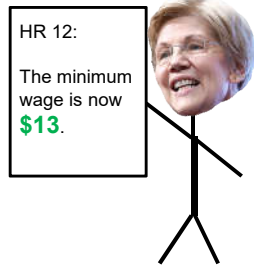
Committee-Gatekeeper Game: Closed Rule



Correct! The committee **WOULD** report the bill to the floor under a closed rule as well. Because Elizabeth's bill defeats the status quo 5-4, with Bernie, Elizabeth, Chuck, Joe and Susan voting yes.



Questions?



Stick figure Elizabeth Warren is happy again.

Questions? Concerns? Angry rants?

Questions, Concerns, Angry Rants?

