The Problem of Apportionment
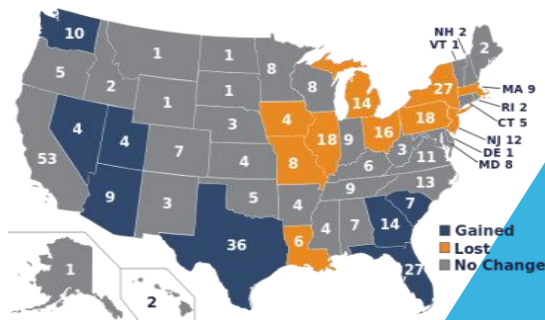
Jonah Ostroff

Brandeis University Mathematics

Article I, Section 2 of the US Constitution states that the number of representatives assigned to each state should be proportional to its population, but what exactly does that mean? It turns out that our nation's founders weren't exactly sure. What resulted was 150 years of politicians, bureaucrats, and mathematicians arguing over a surprisingly tricky math problem. We'll attempt to answer this question ourselves, and then walk through the history that brought us to the method used today.

UW Seattle campus, Savery Hall, Room 260
Sunday, March 10th, 1–2pm

This event is part of a series.

Further information, campus maps
and driving directions can be found at
www.math.washington.edu/~mathcircle/mathhour