

Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT): *How Democracy Decides Fairly*

Level 2 Test: Structural

Equal-Value Consent Test Level 2 (EVCT-L2): *How Democracy Decides Fairly*

Purpose:

To ensure that every citizen's consent carries the same moral and political weight — preventing any faction, majority, or institution from claiming legitimacy without equal consideration of all who are governed.

The **EVCT-L2** is the measure that keeps structural power *neutral*, fair, and accountable to its core principle:

No one's consent counts for more than another's.

1. The Problem: Unequal Consent

Modern democracies often confuse *majority rule* with *fairness*.

But when wealth, partisanship, or institutional power shape outcomes, the consent of some citizens weighs more than others — and democracy becomes an illusion, and oppression is practiced instead of democracy.

Unequal consent happens when:

- Votes are influenced by misinformation or manipulation.
- Representatives serve donors or parties over citizens.
- Institutions favor one group's participation or access.
- “Winners” act without regard for the consent of those who lost.

EVCT restores fairness by testing whether *every person's influence* remains equal in both **process and consequence**.

2. The Principle: Equal Weight of Reason and Consent

Democracy is not just the *count* of opinions — it's the *quality* of consent behind them. Equal-Value Consent means two things must be balanced:

1. **Reason:** Everyone must have equal access to understanding and deliberation.



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2. **Consent:** Everyone's final position must carry equal weight in the outcome.

When either is unequal — when reason is distorted or consent is coerced — legitimacy collapses.

3. The Test: The Three Questions of EVCT

The Equal-Value Consent Test can be applied to any proposal, policy, or decision.

EVCT Question	What It Tests	Why It Matters
1. Was everyone equally informed?	Information equality	Consent based on ignorance or propaganda is not valid.
2. Was everyone equally free to decide?	Independence of will	Coerced, pressured, or socially punished choices aren't real consent.
3. Will everyone be equally affected or represented by the outcome?	Fairness of impact	No group should bear unequal burdens or privileges under the same law.

If any answer is *no*, the decision fails the EVCT — and must be reconsidered or revised until equality of consent is restored.

4. The Method: How Assemblies Use EVCT

In neutral assemblies or community gatherings:

1. **Present all relevant information** from multiple perspectives.
2. **Ensure every participant can question and challenge** without fear or bias.
3. **Record support levels for each proposal** — not to seek conformity, but to document the distribution of equal, independent consent.
4. **Publish or deliver results** transparently to all representatives, showing the reasoning behind each level of support.



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This process transforms democracy from a contest of dominance into a **system of balanced legitimacy**.

5. The Spirit: Consent as the Measure of Justice

Democracy isn't defined by who holds power, but by *how consent is earned*.

EVCT reminds us that legitimacy is not granted by numbers or victory — it's granted by **the equal respect of every person's reasoning and autonomy**.

"A decision is only democratic when everyone's freedom to agree or disagree remains intact."

This empowers reason and justice, as democracy intends.

Why Equal-Value Consent Matters

- It replaces *majority power* with *measured fairness*.
 - It turns *winning* into *earning*.
 - It protects dissenters as co-owners of the system, not obstacles to it.
 - It gives citizens a shared test for legitimacy that no party can corrupt.
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Summary

Goal	Measure fairness through equality of consent.
Key Rule	No one's consent counts for more than another's.
Core Practice	Test all decisions for equal access to reason, freedom, and representation.
Outcome	Legitimate decisions grounded in balanced, independent citizen consent – empowering reason and justice, as democracy intends.

