Journal of Sortition

Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2026

Special Issue on
Governing Citizens' Assemblies
Edited by Hélène Landemore, Antonin Lacelle-Webster
and Théophile Pénigaud de Mourgues

Introduction

5 Governing Citizens' Assemblies: Co-decision and power sharing in the French citizens' conventions — *H. Landemore, A. Lacelle-Webster & T. Pénigaud*

Part I: The Governance of the French Conventions

19 Political Mandate, Governance and Independence of a Citizens'Assembly — *J-M. Fourniau*

38 What Does Governing a Citizens' Assembly Mean? — *S. Rui*

53 Vote First, Think Later: The role of voting in shaping deliberation in the French Citizens' Convention on the End of Life — *C. Santoro*

73 Minority Representation and Governance: The experience of the citizens from overseas territories in the Convention for Climate — *C. Rafidinarivo*

Part II: Governing Citizens' Assemblies from a Comparative Lens

89 The Irish Citizens' Assemblies: A framework for evaluating governance legitimacy — *J. Suiter & F. Saintraint*

110 Beyond the Last Word: Exploring power relations in institutionalized citizen deliberation — lessons from East Belgium — *R. Gebauer, C. Niessen, A-M. Sautter, P. Velghe & M. Reuchamps*

123 The Governance of Citizens' Assemblies: Negotiating deliberative values and practical constraints — *M. Ross, H. Jovita & L. Veloso*

Part III: Perspectives from Former Participants and External Observer

144 Perspectives from Within: Reflections on the governance of citizens' assemblies from former participants — *N. Berriau, S. Castel, M. Souami & L. Van Nieuwenhove*

159 Deliberative Framing by Opinion: Insights from the 2023 French Convention on the End of Life — *M. von Fedak*

Conclusion

176 How Should Citizens Conventions Be Governed? — *C. Lafont, H. Landemore, A. Lacelle-Webster & T. Pénigaud de Mourgues*