

## What Does the Athenian Visitor Mean by Democracy in Plato's *Laws*?

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In Plato's *Laws* the democracy in Magnesia as the Athenian visitor describes it as part of an ideal mixed constitution is seemingly homogeneous to Athenian democracy in institutions such as people's assembly and court or public office appointment by election and/or lot. However his aim in introducing democracy into Magnesia's constitution is a radical reformation of political persuasion. While inexplicitly criticising Athenian democracy for the reason that the political leaders' persuasion in its collective decision making is a mere collusion with people under pretense of the knowledge of goodness, he proposes a lawgiver's dialectical persuasion by dint of the knowledge of goodness. If this programme were completed in the making of laws for newly registered citizens, the democracy in Magnesia after the lawgiver leaves would be a self-rule by good people. However, because the Athenian visitor does not fully explain what it is to be good, his proposal is not fully justified.