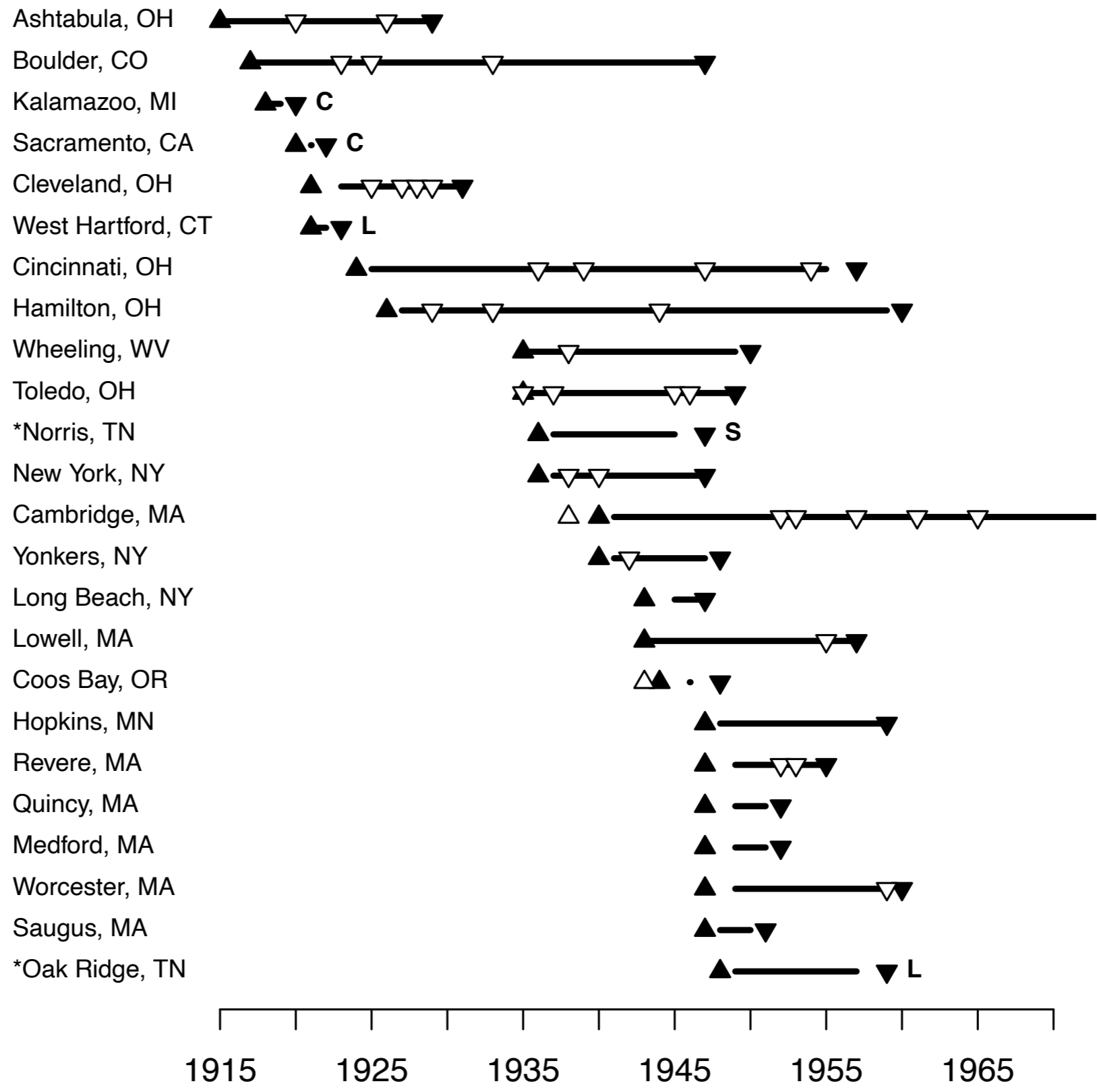


Learning from the repeal of STV in U.S. cities

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Single transferable vote

- A form of proportional representation (maybe).
- **Does not presume party grouping.**
- Used in Australia (1948), Ireland, and Malta (1920s).



Filled triangle: adopted or repealed. Empty triangle: failed adoption or repeal.
 Non-referendum repeal: court (C), state legislature (L), sale by U.S. Congress (S).
 *Federally administered with advisory council.

Puzzles

- Proportional systems tend to stick.
- “Unpopular minorities” get elected — but what about other cities?
- Politicians and election officials didn’t like it — but why did it last when it did?
- Bipartisan repeal coalitions — why?

Start with a “shifting coalitions” perspective

- Democracies generate coalitions (parties).
- Coalitions care about control of government.
- Electoral reform (including repeal) could reflect problem with control of government...

Key measures

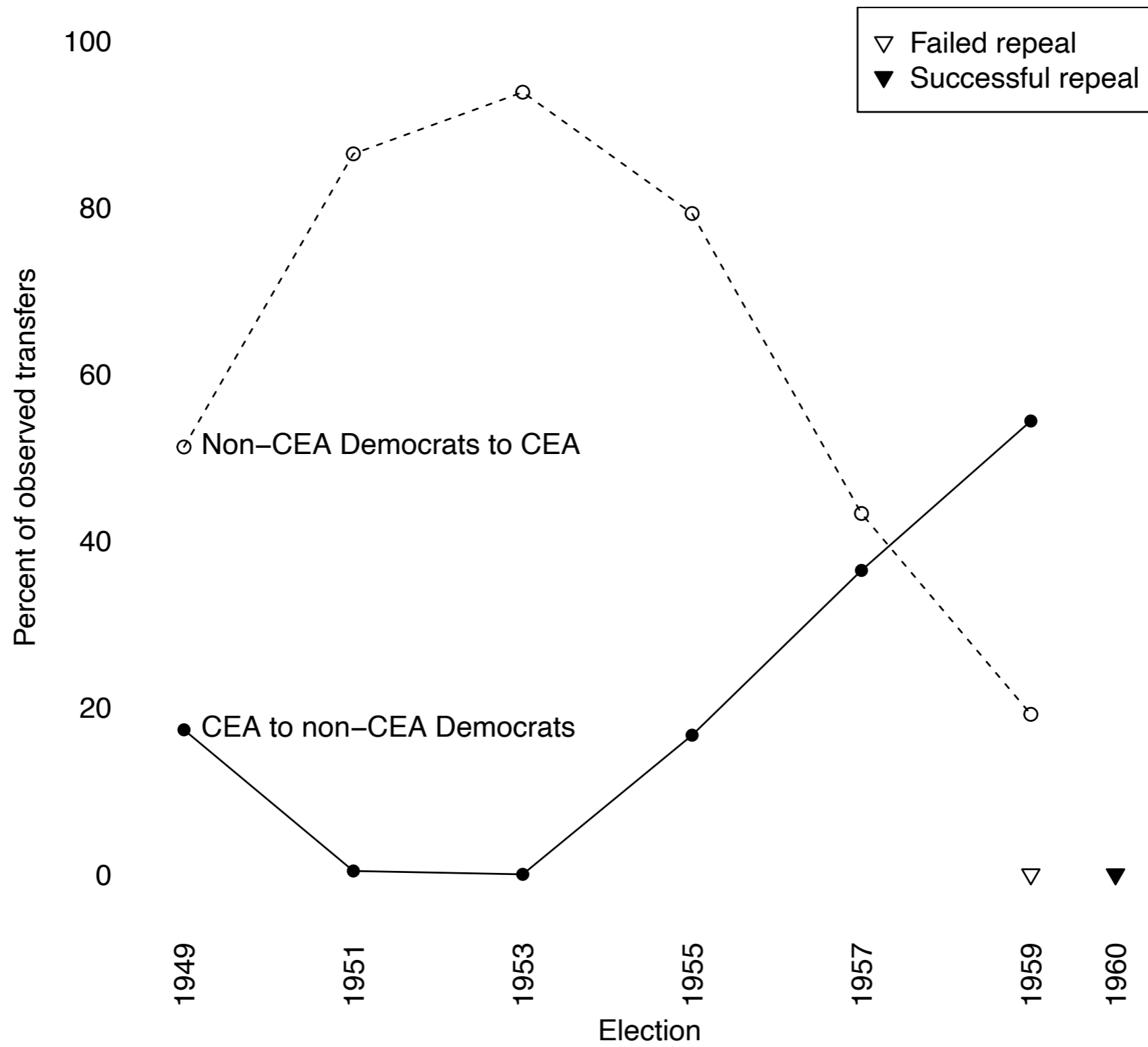
- Control of government — majority roll rate.
- Shifting coalitions — majority's rate of 'vote leakage.'

Case selection*

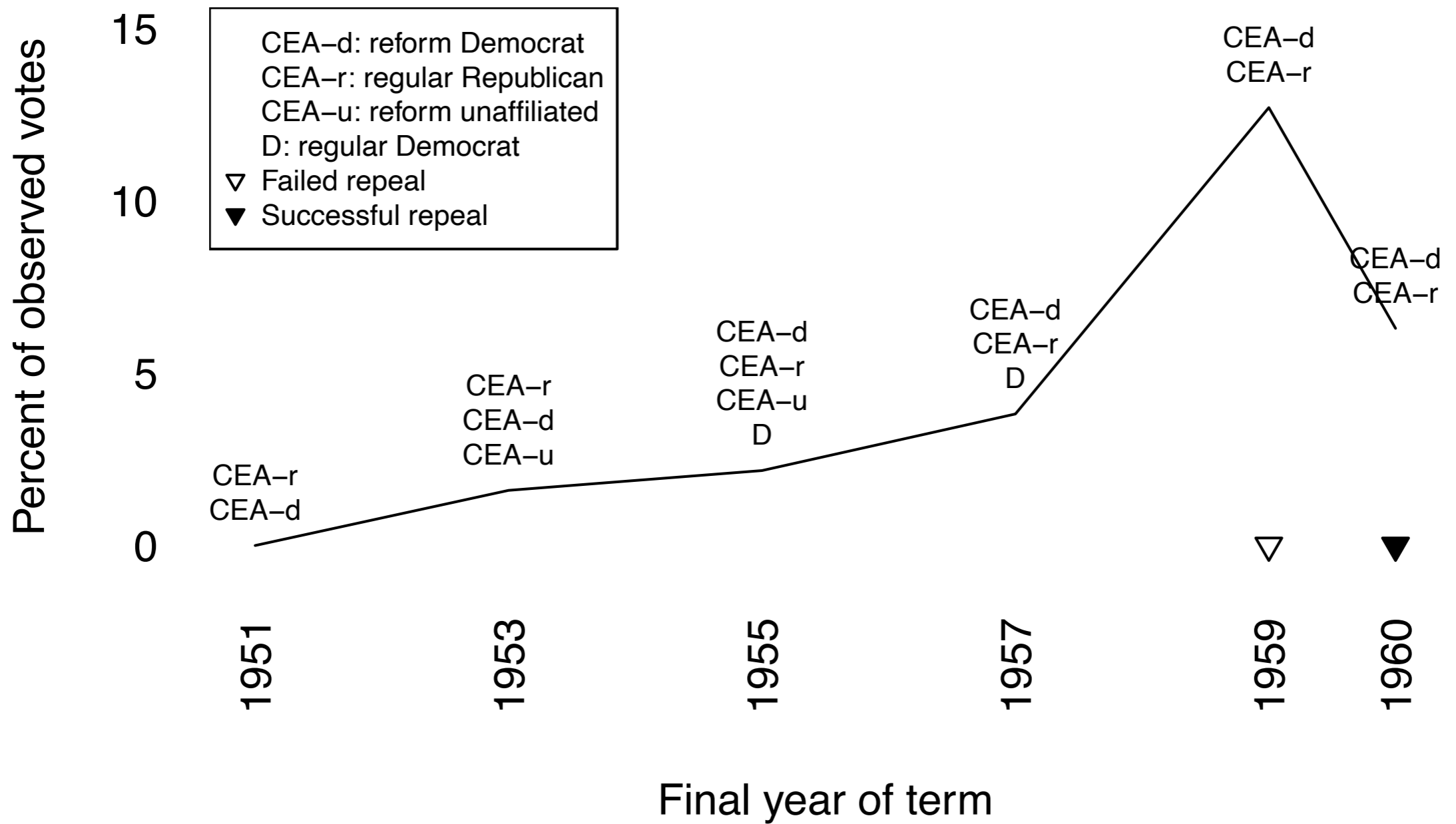
- Cincinnati, 1925-57 — nonwhite, unicameral.
- Worcester (MA), 1950-61 — very white, unicameral.
- Cambridge (MA), 1941-69 — never repealed, unicameral.
- New York City — nonwhite, Communists, bicameral.

*most-different-systems research design, variation on repeal

Transfer leakage to winners in opposing coalition: Worcester



Majority rolls and party control in Worcester City Council



Potential lessons

- Party control of rankings seems important.
- Can STV withstand a realignment?
- Does it require a multi-party system?
- Do “voter-choice” reforms require constraints on choice?