

Two Main Roman Assemblies

Centuriate Assembly

Voting unit: century

- 193 centuries
 - 98 of these centuries were the wealthiest men, who could afford to maintain a horse (the cavalry in the military)
 - These 98, if they voted in unison, could elect magistrates or arrive at decisions without needing to count the votes of lower ranking centuries
 - men who had no land made up only 1 century
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met outside city limits
elected the consuls, praetors,
aediles, and quaestors
presided over capital cases
declared war
Voted in order of wealth

Both Assemblies:

- Could only vote “yes” or “no” to a law, or to a candidate for office. Amendments to bills were not allowed.
- Voting units for each assembly were tallied according to a majority, which is to say, a majority of voters in each century or tribe would decide how that particular tribe or century could vote.
- However, there was no guarantee that each tribe represented the same number of people (as other tribes); certainly each century didn’t have equal representation

Tribal Assembly

Voting unit: tribe

- 21 to 35 tribes, each with one vote
 - 4 urban tribes—all the rest were from the countryside (rural farmers and aristocrats)
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freed slaves were limited to the four urban tribes
number of tribes reached 35 in 241 BC
elected military tribunes
from 287 BC on, the Tribal Assembly’s laws were binding, even without Senate approval, under the Lex Hortensia