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Subject: Re: Lex Cornelia de classibus et ordine equestri
From: El Jefe <eljefe3126@netscape.net>
Date: Sun, Dec 21, 2014 11:21 pm
To: caninus@caninus.co

P. Porcius Licinus tribune M. Pompeio Canino praetori SPD

Gratias tibi ago, that does clear things up. I didn't know how many of Century XXXI were assidui and how many were not.

That means there are 68 assidui in Centuries I - XXX, and 8 in Century XXXI.

80% of all votes cast were from Centuries I - XXX, with 59% turnout.

20% of all votes cast were from Century XXXI, with 1% turnout.

The only other data which would be meaningful to me would be how many of the 10 votes from Century XXXI were from assidui and how many were from non-assidui. There are 8 assidui and 970 non-assidui in Century XXXI, so the turnout of the non-assidui cannot be better than 1% in any case.

The 8 assidui in Century XXXI must necessarily be citizens of 6 months or less, else they would have at least 17 Census points. If all 8 of them were in a different century (say, for example, Century XXX), that would still be a smaller century than some of the Class III Centuries.

But if say, all 8 of them voted, that means that only 2 non-assidui voted, and that would mean that if the new citizens were moved out of Century XXXI, then every non-assidui who voted had at least half that Century's vote. Theoretically, if more non-assidui voted, they might have only 1/100th of a vote. But that is all hypothetical. I'll think on that some more. At least, I think you now see why the breakdown between votes cast by assidui and non-assidui is meaningful to me.

I do thank you for the consideration you have given this matter, and earlier today, I did send a message to Placidus expressing my concerns. I am approaching this slowly and cautiously, having only mentioned it to the two magistrates-elect who are most likely to be affected by it so far. But as the three of us reach some sort of understanding on what we agree on and what we do not, I may discuss this with the other tribunes, and with those who contacted me in the first place. I reserve the right to broach the subject on the main list, but please understand that I greatly wish to work this out privately as much as possible first.

I believe I did vote for this lex. If I recall correctly, the only leges I voted against that year were the lex Coneila de cursu honorum, and the lex Pompeia de cursu honorum. In hindsight, I wish I had participated more in the debates on the main list, and scrutinized all these leges more at that time.

I also wish our terms had started without such a vexatious matter before us. But it is not our fate in life to choose which troubles will arise to concern us, rather it is our lot to decide how we will deal with those that do.

Optime vale!

P. Porcius Licinus

-----Original Message-----

From: M. Pompeius Caninus <caninus@caninus.co>
To: El Jefe <eljefe3126@netscape.net>
Sent: Mon, Dec 22, 2014 1:13 am
Subject: RE: Lex Cornelia de classibus et ordine equestri

M. Pompeius Caninus praetor P. Porcio Licino tribuno salutem plurimam dicit.

Let's be a bit more clear about the numbers. The number of assidui is actually 76 - not 68. And

the turnout was by no means uniform.

If we look at just the Comitia Centuriata in this most recent election, which seems to be at the core of the concerns you expressed:

10 votes out of the less than 50 cast in the Comitia Centuriata were from Century 31, which is at the very least 20%.

40 votes out of the less than 50 cast in the Comitia Centuriata were from all other Centuries, which is at most 80%.

Would you like to have an exact breakdown of the numbers of votes for each Century? My guess is that the percentage of the total votes coming from Century 31 will be higher than 20%. Regardless of how large of a percentage of the total number of non-taxpayers who voted actually is, the fact is that non-taxpayers made up a statistically significant percentage of the total number of citizens who actually care enough about Nova Roma to take ten minutes out of their lives to vote.

Your focus on those you define as 'active' citizens raises concerns for me. More than one fifth of the citizens who took time to vote in this Nova Roman election were from a group of citizens who you would seem to marginalize. But maybe I need to just take more time to read your charges with a more open mind and with greater attention to inconsistencies and possible unfavorable and unfair outcomes from the current wording of the lex. Of course, I will continue reviewing the discussions held among the framers of the lex.

In the meantime, I suggest filing a complaint with the Censores regarding the distribution of the citizens and the issue regarding the total assignments specified in the lex Cornelia de classibus et ordine equestri equaling 94% rather than 100%.

However, if you know of any other citizens who may have concerns along the same line then please urge a few of them to express their concerns either in the public fora or, if they fear some kind of retribution or mistreatment, have them contact me privately as you have done. Again, I am most interested in hearing from citizens who voted in favor of the lex but would now like to see changes made. But if I hear from several citizens who share your misgivings as to the fairness of the lex then I will consider making a series of changes to make the lex fairer for all citizens.

Fac valeas!

Marcus Pompeius Caninus