

Electoral Systems and Their Impacts on the Political System

How the World Votes

Decoding the mechanics of democracy. From "Winner Takes All" to "Fair Shares," explore how electoral systems shape representation, stability, and power.

ရွေးချယ်တင်မြောက်ပုံစနစ်များနှင့် ယင်းတို့၏ နိုင်ငံရေးစနစ်ပေါ်လွှမ်းမိုးမှု

Khin Maung Win 2026

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Quiz ဘယ်ဟာ အမှန်ဆုံးလဲ

- တိုင်းပြုပြည်ပြုညီလာခံက ရေးဆွဲအတည်ပြုထားသည့် ဖက်ဒရယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီ ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေကို လူထုဆန္ဒ ခံယူပွဲကျင်းပပြီး အတည်ပြုပြဋ္ဌာန်းခြင်းနှင့် ရွေးကောက်ပွဲကျင်းပခြင်း။
- လူထုဆန္ဒခံယူပွဲ ကျင်းပပြီး၊ မဲပေးခွင့်ရှိသူ ထက်ဝက်ကျော် ထောက်ခံမှုဖြင့် ဖက်ဒရယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီ ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံအခြေခံဥပဒေကို အတည်ပြုရမည်။
- လူထုဆန္ဒခံယူပွဲ ကျင်းပပြီး၊ မဲပေးသူ ထက်ဝက်ကျော်ထောက်ခံမှုဖြင့် ဖက်ဒရယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီ ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေကို အတည်ပြုရမည်။
- လူထုဆန္ဒခံယူပွဲ ကျင်းပပြီး၊ အတည်ပြုနိုင်သော ထက်ဝက်ကျော် ထောက်ခံမှုဖြင့် ဖက်ဒရယ်ဒီမိုကရေစီ ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေကို အတည်ပြု ရမည်။

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COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Analyzing how electoral rules shape executive formation, party dynamics, and primary goals across four major federal democracies.

USA	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	AUSTRALIA
SYSTEM TYPE Majoritarian	SYSTEM TYPE Proportional Hybrid	SYSTEM TYPE Consensus	SYSTEM TYPE Hybrid (AV/PR)
Executive Independent of Legislature	Executive Majority Coalition in House	Executive Fixed Multi-party Council	Executive Majority in House
Minor Parties Marginal (Two-Party)	Minor Parties Essential for Coalitions	Minor Parties Integral to Executive	Minor Parties Balance of Power (Senate)
PRIMARY GOAL Competition & Victory	PRIMARY GOAL Deliberation & Stability	PRIMARY GOAL Negotiation & Compromise	PRIMARY GOAL Accountability & Review

Core Insights

ELECTORAL RULES
"Rules converting votes into seats determine whether a nation leans toward competition or cooperation."

POWER DYNAMICS
Majoritarian systems (US/AU) prioritize clear winners, while Proportional systems (DE/CH) prioritize inclusion and deliberation.

CHECKS & BALANCES
Australia's hybrid model specifically uses the Senate to force negotiation, bridging the gap between majoritarian and consensus styles.

Data sourced from: Comparative Electoral System and Party System Analysis Document.

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THE GLOBAL ELECTORAL LANDSCAPE

Analysis of the 2024 "Super-Cycle" & Institutional Design

1.6 Billion VOTERS IN 2024	74 NATIONAL ELECTIONS	62 COUNTRIES
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The Architecture of Democracy

Electoral systems are the engines that convert votes into power. They generally fall into three families, each prioritizing different democratic values: decisive governance, accurate representation, or a balance of both.

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Electoral Engineering for Minorities

The Council of Europe highlights specific technical designs intended for conflict management in divided societies. These tools ensure that ethnic and national minorities aren't silenced by the majority.

Reserved Seats

Designated seats guaranteed for recognized national minorities regardless of vote percentage.

EXAMPLES: ROMANIA, SLOVENIA

Threshold Waivers

Waiving the standard 5% electoral hurdle for parties representing recognized ethnic groups.

EXAMPLE: GERMANY (DANISH PARTY)

Boundary Design

Strategic design of voting districts to secure representation for concentrated minority groups.

TECHNIQUE: PURPOSEFUL CONCENTRATION

The Future of European Governance

As Europe advances into the 2020s, the trend favors complexity over simplicity. By rejecting "winner-take-all" dynamics, European nations continue to refine systems where power is shared, voices are heard, and stability is found through the constant practice of negotiation.

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ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပုံစနစ်ဆိုတာ ဘာလဲ

- ကိုယ်စားပြုဒီမိုကရေစီစနစ်မှာ မရှိမဖြစ်လိုအပ်၊
- ဥပဒေပြုရေးနဲ့ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးတာဝန်ယူမည့်သူများကို ရွေးချယ်ရာမှာ ကျင့်သုံးသည့် စနစ်၊
- ကာလ အပိုင်းအခြားလိုက်ကျင်းပ၊
- လူထုကိုယ်စား အာဏာကျင့်သုံးမည့်သူများ ရွေးချယ်ရာမှာ အဓိကကျသည့် နိုင်ငံရေး လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်၊
- အရေးအကြီးဆုံးနဲ့ အထိရောက်ဆုံးသော ပြည်သူများရဲ့ နိုင်ငံရေးပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှုနည်းနာ၊
- သက်ဆိုင်ရာနိုင်ငံရဲ့ နိုင်ငံရေးစနစ်၊ အစိုးရစနစ်ကို ပုံဖော်ရာမှာ အရေးပါ၊
- နိုင်ငံရေးခေါင်းဆောင်များ တာဝန်ခံမှုရှိရေး ထိမ်းကြောင်းသည့်နည်းလမ်းတစ်ခု၊
- အာဏာရှင်စနစ် တားဆီးရာမှာ တဖက်တလမ်းက အထောက်အကူပြု။

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ရွေးချယ်တင်မြောက်ပုံစနစ်၏ နိုင်ငံရေး အကျိုးဆက်

- နိုင်ငံရေး ကိုယ်စားပြုမှု အချိုးကျ ညီမျှခြင်းရှိမရှိ ပြဌာန်းပေးနိုင် (Over representation, under representation, equal representation)
- အစိုးရများဖွဲ့ရာတွင် inclusive, exclusive ဖြစ်မှုကို ပြဌာန်းနိုင်
- နိုင်ငံရေး ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု (သို့) ထိပ်တိုက်တွေ့မှု compromise vs confrontation တွေကို ဖြစ်စေနိုင်

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How the electoral systems work

ရွေးချယ်တင်မြောက်ပုံစနစ်များ အလုပ်လုပ်ပုံ

Eligible voters and
Voters-turnout
မဲပေးခွင့်ရှိသူနှင့် မဲလာ ပေးသူ

Electoral system
ရွေးချယ်တင်မြောက်ပုံစနစ်

Constituency/ Electoral District
မဲဆန္ဒနယ်

Political parties/ candidate
နိုင်ငံရေးပါတီများ/
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်လောင်းများ

Vote counting process
မဲရေတွက်မှုများ

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အဓိပ္ပါယ်သိထားရမည့် ဝေါဟာရများ (နမူနာ)

- ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲ/ ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ အမျိုးမျိုးရဲ့ နိုင်ငံရေး အဓိပ္ပါယ်
- နိုင်ငံရေးရာထူး/ တာဝန်နဲ့ ပတ်သက်လို့- သမ္မတရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပွဲ၊ လွှတ်တော် ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ
- အထွေထွေရွေး ကောက်ပွဲ (general election) နဲ့ ကြားဖြတ်ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ (bi-election)
- Constituent unit နဲ့ ပတ်သက်တဲ့ ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ- Local, Provincial/ State, National level elections
- ဆန္ဒမဲပေးခွင့်ရှိသူများ (eligible voters) နဲ့ မဲလာပေးသူများ (voter turnout) ခြားနားပုံ
- လူထု ဆန္ဒခံယူပွဲ (referendum) နဲ့ ရွေးကောက်ပွဲ (election)
- မဖြစ်မနေ မဲပေးရခြင်း (compulsory voting) နဲ့ မိမိသဘောအရ မဲပေးခြင်း (voluntary voting)

Different types of constituencies မဲဆန္ဒနယ် အမျိုးမျိုး

- District level constituency အောက်ဆုံးအဆင့် မဲဆန္ဒနယ်
- State-wide constituency ပြည်နယ်အတိုင်းအတာ မဲဆန္ဒနယ်
- Nation-wide constituency တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံးအတိုင်းအတာ မဲဆန္ဒနယ်
- Single-member constituency ကိုယ်စားလှယ် တစ်ဦး မဲဆန္ဒနယ်
- Multi-member constituency ကိုယ်စားလှယ်စုံ မဲဆန္ဒနယ်

Constituencies/ electoral districts မဲဆန္ဒနယ်

Figure 1

50 Single-Seat Districts

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

Figure 2

Ten 5-Seat PR Districts

5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats
5 seats	5 seats

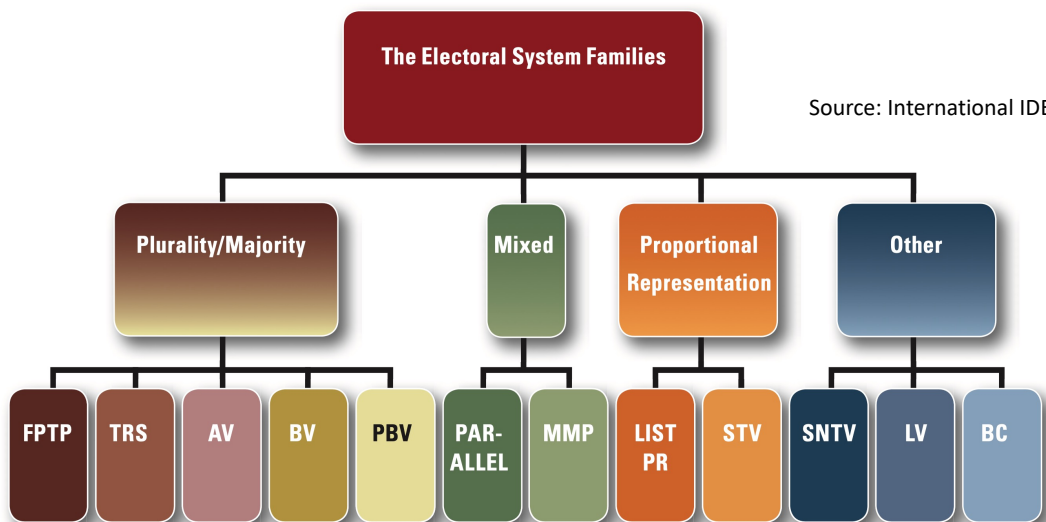
Figure 3

Five 10-Seat PR Districts

10 seats
10 seats
10 seats
10 seats
10 seats

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အဓိက ရွေးချယ်တင်မြှောက်ပုံစနစ်များ



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The Global Landscape

There isn't one way to elect a government. While historical colonial ties often dictate a nation's choice, the world is broadly divided into families of systems.

Plurality / Majority

Common in the US, UK, and India. The candidate with the most votes wins, often without needing a true majority (>50%). Known for simplicity but can distort results.

Proportional Representation (PR)

Dominant in Europe and Latin America. Parties gain seats in proportion to their vote share. Aiming for fairness, it often requires coalitions to govern.

Mixed & Other

Systems like MMP (Germany, NZ) combine local MPs with proportional lists, trying to get the "best of both worlds."

Countries by Electoral System Family

System Family	Percentage of Countries
Plurality/Majority (FPTP)	~35%
Proportional Representation (PR)	~35%
Mixed Systems (MMP)	~15%
Other (Transition/Hybrid)	~15%

Based on data from the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network

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Majoritarian / Plurality

Goal: Decisive outcomes & strong governance.
Examples: FPTP (USA, UK), Two-Round System (France).
Effect: Often creates two-party dominance (Duverger's Law) but ensures local accountability.

Proportional Representation (PR)

Goal: Inclusivity & Mirroring Public Opinion.
Examples: List PR, STV.
Effect: Encourages multi-party systems and coalition governments, minimizing "wasted votes."

Mixed Systems

Goal: The "Best of Both Worlds."
Examples: MMP (Germany), Parallel Systems (South Korea 2024 reform).
Effect: Combines local district MPs with a PR top-up to ensure overall fairness.

SYSTEM TRADE-OFFS ANALYSIS

System	Proportionality	Govt Stability	Local Accountability	Simplicity	Inclusivity
Majoritarian (FPTP)	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Proportional (PR)	High	Low	High	Low	High
Mixed Systems	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

Conceptual comparison of system strengths based on political science consensus.

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Comparative Impact on Governance

FEATURE	MAJORITARIAN (UK)	PROPORTIONAL (NL)	MIXED (DE)
Executive	Single-party majority	Multi-party coalition	Multi-party coalition
Stability	High (Clear mandate)	Negotiation-heavy	Institutionalized
Representation	Lower (Wasted votes)	Very High	High
Core Goal	COMPETITION & VICTORY	NEGOTIATION & COMPROMISE	DELIBERATION & STABILITY

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The Representation Gap

The choice of system has a direct statistical impact on the diversity of parliament. Research consistently shows that Proportional Representation (PR) systems facilitate significantly higher levels of representation for women and ethnic minorities compared to Plurality systems.

- ✓ **Ticket Balancing:** In PR lists, parties are incentivized to include diverse candidates to appeal to a broader electorate.
- ✗ **Risk Aversion:** In Single-Member districts (FPTP), parties often pick the "safest" (traditionally male/majority) candidate to win the sole seat.

Female Representation by System (Avg %)

System	Avg Female MPs (%)
Plurality / Majority	~18
Mixed Systems	~25
Proportional Rep	~34

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ELECTORAL SYSTEMS GUIDE

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)

Also known as Single-Member Plurality voting. It is a system where the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins the seat, regardless of whether they secure an absolute majority.

The "Winner-Takes-All" Mechanism

In an FPTP system, the country is divided into electoral districts, each represented by a single seat. Voters cast a ballot for one candidate.

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First Past The Post (FPTP)

BALLOT PAPER
Vote for one

- BERNARDO, Kathryn
"KATH" (KNP)
- GIL, Enrique
"QUEN" (TLQ)
- MENDOZA, Maine
"YAYA DUB" (KSP)
- REID, James
"CLARK" (VIVA)

timowparagas.wordpress.com

- ▣ Currently used to elect executive positions of different levels and a district representative in the House of Representatives
- ▣ Voters choose one candidate
- ▣ A candidate with most votes cast wins

**Example Riding:
Voters**




40% **blue voters**
30% **yellow voters**
20% **purple voters**
10% **salmon voters**

**Elected:
Blue MP**




- Origin of the term "horse race" မြင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ
- No threshold - ကြမ်းခင်းမရှိ
- Over-representation and under-representation - ပိုပြီးကိုယ်စားပြု၊ ကိုယ်စားပြုမှု အနိမ့်ခံရ

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Arguments For FPTP

- **Simplicity:** It is easy for voters to understand and simple to count, leading to fast results.
- **Government Stability:** It often produces single-party majority governments, allowing them to pass legislation without relying on fragile coalitions.
- **Direct Representation:** There is a clear link between a specific geographical area and their single elected representative.
- **Excludes Extremes:** It can prevent small, fringe, or extremist parties from gaining a foothold in the legislature.



Arguments Against FPTP

- **Disproportionality:** Seat allocation rarely matches the national popular vote, often leaving minority voices unrepresented.
- **Wasted Votes:** Votes for losing candidates, and surplus votes for the winner, do not affect the makeup of the legislature.
- **Tactical Voting:** Voters may feel forced to vote for the "lesser of two evils" rather than their preferred candidate to prevent someone else from winning.
- **Two-Party Squeeze:** According to Duverger's Law, FPTP systems naturally gravitate towards a two-party system over time.

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Two-Round Systems

Round 1

Joe Smith

John Citizen

Jane Doe

Fred Rubble

Mary Hill

Round 2

Jane Doe

Mary Hill

- A **two-round system** (TRS) has the potential for two rounds of elections.
- Candidates or parties are automatically elected in the first round if they obtain a specified level of votes, typically an absolute majority.
- If no candidate or party wins this level of votes, then a second round of elections takes place.
- Those candidates or parties that win the most votes in the second round are elected.

- ပထမကြိမ်မှာ တစ်ယောက်ယောက်က မဲ ၅၀% ရယူင် အရွေးခံရ
- ပထမအကြိမ်မှာ မည်သူမှ ၅၀% မရပါက မဲအများဆုံးရသူ နှစ်ဦးကို ဒုတိယအကြိမ် ပြန်ရွေး
- ပြင်သစ်မှာက နှစ်ဦးထက် ပိုသူများကို ပြန်ရွေးခံ၊ အများဆုံးရသူကို ရွေးချယ်

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TRS- Two Round System

- ကိုယ်စားလှယ်တစ်ဦးမဲဆန္ဒနယ်
- Majority-Run off ဒုတိယ တကြော့မှာ အများဆုံး ၂ ယောက်ထည်း ပြိုင်-
- သမ္မတ ရွေးကောက်ပွဲများ- Majority-run off
- Plurality-run off ပထမတကြိမ် သတ်မှတ် ရာနှုံးပြည့်သူတိုင်း ဒုတိယတကြော့မှာ ပြန်အရွေးခံနိုင် (၁၂.၅ % ပြင်သစ်)

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Alternative Vote (AV)

Alternative Vote

- PROPORTIONALITY: ★★★★★
- VOTER CHOICE: ★★★★★
- LOCAL REPRESENTATION: ★★★★★

BALLOT PAPER
PLACE THE CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (1,2,3, ETC.) RANK AS MANY CANDIDATES AS YOU WISH

JONES ALAN	PINK PARTY	4
POTHERINGTON JAMES	BLUE PARTY	1
SMITH EMILY	PURPLE PARTY	3
ANDERSON RITA	GREEN PARTY	2
HEPWORTH BARBARA	TEAL PARTY	5

BALLOT PAPER FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE VOTE SYSTEM

Put the number 1 next to the name of the candidate who is your first choice (or your only choice, if you want to vote for only one candidate).

You can also put the number 2 next to your second choice, 3 next to your third choice, and so on.

You can mark as few or as many choices (up to the number of candidates) as you wish.

Do not use the same number more than once.

Candidate A The A Party	[Enblom]	1
Candidate B The B Party	[Enblom]	
Candidate C The C Party	[Enblom]	3
Candidate D The D Party Candidate	[Enblom]	2
Candidate E Independent	[Enblom]	4
Candidate F The F Party	[Enblom]	
Candidate G The F Party	[Enblom]	
Candidate H Independent	[Enblom]	5
Candidate I The I Party Candidate	[Enblom]	

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Australia: Lower house electoral system with AV

New South Wales	47
Victoria	38
Queensland	30
Western Australia	16
South Australia	10
Tasmania	5
Australian Capital Territory	3
Northern Territory	2
TOTAL	151

Counting the votes

In the first stage of the count the first preference votes are counted. If no candidate receives more than half of the votes cast, the candidates with the fewest votes are progressively eliminated and the votes received by them distributed (that is, allotted to other candidates according to the preferences of the voters) until only two candidates remain, for example:

First preference votes counted			
candidate	A	B	C
votes	45	30	25

C's second preferences distributed, two possibilities are shown

candidate	A	B	A	B
1st preference votes	45	30	45	30
2nd preference votes	10	15	4	21
total votes	55	45	49	51

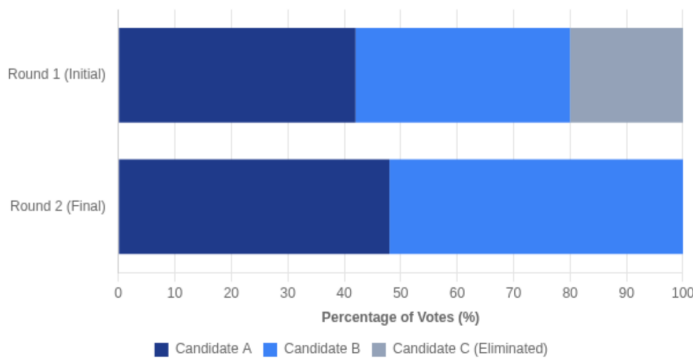
A elected B elected

In this example the candidate with the fewest votes (C) is excluded and his or her votes shared between candidates A and B according to whether the voters had ranked A or B as their second choice. Note that this could result in either A or B being elected, depending on the distribution of preferences.

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Preference Redistribution

See how "Transferable Votes" change the outcome from Round 1 to the Final Round.



Elimination Logic

Candidate C was eliminated. Their supporters' second choices were split between A and B.

The "Squeezed" Winner

In this scenario, Candidate B wins despite starting in second place, because they were the most popular "second choice."

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The Alternative Vote

Beyond the "Winner-Take-All" system. Learn how ranking your preferences ensures the winning candidate has the broadest possible support.

The 50% Threshold

In a First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system, a candidate can win with just 35% of the vote if others are split. Under the **Alternative Vote (AV)**, a candidate must secure a majority (50% + 1) to be declared the winner.

51% MINIMUM SUPPORT REQUIRED TO WIN

AV vs. FPTP Comparison

Category	Alternative Vote	First-Past-The-Post
Representativeness	High	Low
Counting Simplicity	Low	High
Minority Voice	High	Low
Speed of Results	Low	High
Voter Choice	High	Low

AV excels in representativeness and reducing "wasted" votes.


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Block Vote

A plurality system used in multi-member districts where voters have as many votes as there are seats to be filled. Simple to use, but powerful in its ability to create landslides.

- M > 1**
DISTRICT MAGNITUDE
Districts always have more than one representative.
- X = N**
VOTES PER VOTER
Voters get one vote for every seat available.
- 100%**
SWEEP POTENTIAL
One party can easily win all seats with a simple plurality.

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Bloc Voting (majoritarian)

Sample Ballot (filled)

Vote for three.

The candidates with the most votes wins.

<input type="radio"/>	Maria Moderate
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rachel Right
<input type="radio"/>	Leroy Left
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rex Rural
<input type="radio"/>	Elijah End Corruption
<input type="radio"/>	Felicia Fund College
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Chen Cut Taxes

ကိုယ်စားလှယ်စုံ မဲဆန္ဒနယ် Multi-member constituency

ကိုယ်စားလှယ် အရေအတွက်နဲ့ ညှိတဲ့မဲ အရေအတွက်

ကိုယ်စားလှယ်လောင်းကို မဲပေးရ

Statewide multi-member constituency

မဲအများဆုံးရသူများကိုရွေးချယ် ပါတီစနစ် အားနည်း

30

Party Block Vote

- Multi-member constituency
- State-wide constituency
- List of candidates by each party
- Voters have only one vote for the party
- The party with the most votes is declared the winner of all candidates

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The Block Vote & Party Block Vote

Often used in multi-member districts, these systems amplify the power of the majority. While they differ in mechanics, both are prone to producing "Landslide Sweeps" where the opposition gets nothing.

Block Vote (BV)

Focus: Candidates

District has 3 Seats?

Voter gets 3 Votes

Used in: Kuwait, Lebanon

Party Block Vote

Focus: Parties

District has 3 Seats?

Voter gets 1 Vote (List)

Used in: Singapore, Djibouti

CRITICAL FLAW: THE SWEEP

In Party Block Vote, the winner takes **ALL** seats. Even if Party A wins by just 1 vote, Party B gets 0 representation.

The "Winner-Take-All" Distortion

Hypothetical Result in a 5-Seat District (PBV)

Party	Votes Received (%)	Seats Won (5 Total)
Party A (51% Vote)	51	5
Party B (49% Vote)	49	0

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List PR: Closed

Closed Party List Ballot

Official Ballot

Election for the United States House of Representatives
District One

Voting Instructions

1. You only have ONE vote.
2. Place an X in the box UNDER the party for whom you wish to vote.

Democratic	Republican	Reform	Green	Independent Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Benjamin Foster	1. Wendy Berg	1. Steven Wong	1. Tom Wartenberg	1. Robert Moll
2. Sam Rosen-Amy	2. Steve Grolmic	2. Deborah Gerlin	2. Juan Hernandez	
3. Colin Volz	3. Sarah McClurg	3. Brad Crenshaw	3. Beata Panagopoulos	
4. Benjamin Pike	4. Gerald Epstein	4. Daniel Czitrom	4. Alice Morey	
5. Megan Gentzler	5. Fran Deutsch	5. Meryl Fingrutd	5. Sarah Pringle	

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List PR: Open

Open Party List Ballot

Official Ballot					
Election for the United States House of Representatives					
District One					
Voting Instructions					
1. You only have ONE vote.					
2. Place an X in the box next to the candidate for whom you wish to vote.					
3. Your vote counts both for your candidate and your party.					
Democratic	Republican	Reform	Green	Independent Candidate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin Pike	<input type="checkbox"/> Fran Deutsch	<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Wong	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Wartenberg	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Moll	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sam Rosen-Amy	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Grolnic	<input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Gorlin	<input type="checkbox"/> Juan Hernandez		
<input type="checkbox"/> Megan Gentzler	<input type="checkbox"/> Wendy Berg	<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Crenshaw	<input type="checkbox"/> Beata Panagopoulos		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Foster	<input type="checkbox"/> Gerald Epstein	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Czitrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Alice Morey		
<input type="checkbox"/> Colin Volz	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah McClurg	<input type="checkbox"/> Meryl Fingrud	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Pringle		

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List PR: 10-member constituency/ district

A variety of different formulas exist for accomplishing the actual allocation of seats to the parties. One of the simplest seat allocation formulas is the called the "largest remainder formula." In this approach, the first step is to calculate a quota, which is determined by taking the total number of valid votes in the district and dividing this by the number of seats. In the example in the table below, 100,000 votes were cast and ten seats are to be filled. $100,000/10 = 10,000$ – which is the quota. The quota is then divided into the vote that each party receives and the party wins one seat for each whole number produced. So the Republican party received 38,000 votes, which is divided by 10,000 to produce three seats – with a remainder of 8,000. After this first allocation of seats is complete than the remainder numbers for the parties are compared and the parties with the largest remainders are allocated the remaining seats. In our example, two seats remain to be allocated and the Republicans and Moll, the independent candidate, have the largest remainders, so they get the seats. Ultimately all the parties end up with the number of seats that as closely as possible approximates their percentage of the vote.

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PR: Largest reminders

Largest Remainder Approach to Seat Allocation

Parties	Votes	First Allocation Of Seats	Remaining Votes	Second Allocation of Seats	Final Seat Total	% of Vote to % of Seats
Republican	38,000	3	8,000	1	4	38% / 40%
Democratic	23,000	2	3,000	0	2	23% / 20%
Reform	21,000	2	1,000	0	2	21% / 20%
Green	12,000	1	2,000	0	1	12% / 10%
Moll	6,000	0	6,000	1	1	6% / 10%

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Step 1: The Vote

100,000 citizens cast their ballots. They vote for their preferred Party List. Here is the final breakdown of the popular vote.

Blue Party 42%	Pink Party 31%
Amber Party 15%	Teal Party 12%

Step 2: The Seat Allocation

With 10 seats available, each seat "costs" roughly 10% of the vote. The system translates the vote share directly into legislative power.

The Math (Simplified)

Blue (42%) → 4.2 seats → Wins 4
 Pink (31%) → 3.1 seats → Wins 3
 Amber (15%) → 1.5 seats → Wins 2 (Rounded up*)
 Teal (12%) → 1.2 seats → Wins 1

*Actual rounding depends on formula (e.g., largest remainder)

Why it matters?

In a "Winner-Take-All" system, the Blue Party might have won **all 10 seats** with just 42% of the vote. Here, 58% of voters are also represented.

How List PR Works

Visualizing Proportional Representation in a 10-Member District

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Step 3: Who fills the seats?

This depends on whether the system uses **Closed Lists** or **Open Lists**. MECHANISM

● Closed List (Rigid)

The Party decides the order. Voters vote for the party. If the party wins 4 seats, the top 4 names are elected automatically.

Blue Party List (4 Seats Won)

1. Party Leader	ELECTED
2. Senior Minister	ELECTED
3. Loyal Deputy	ELECTED
4. Policy Chief	ELECTED
5. Local Candidate	Not Elected
6. New Recruit	Not Elected

● Open List (Flexible)

Voters decide the order. If a popular local candidate at #6 gets more personal votes than the leader at #1, they jump the queue.

Blue Party List (4 Seats Won)

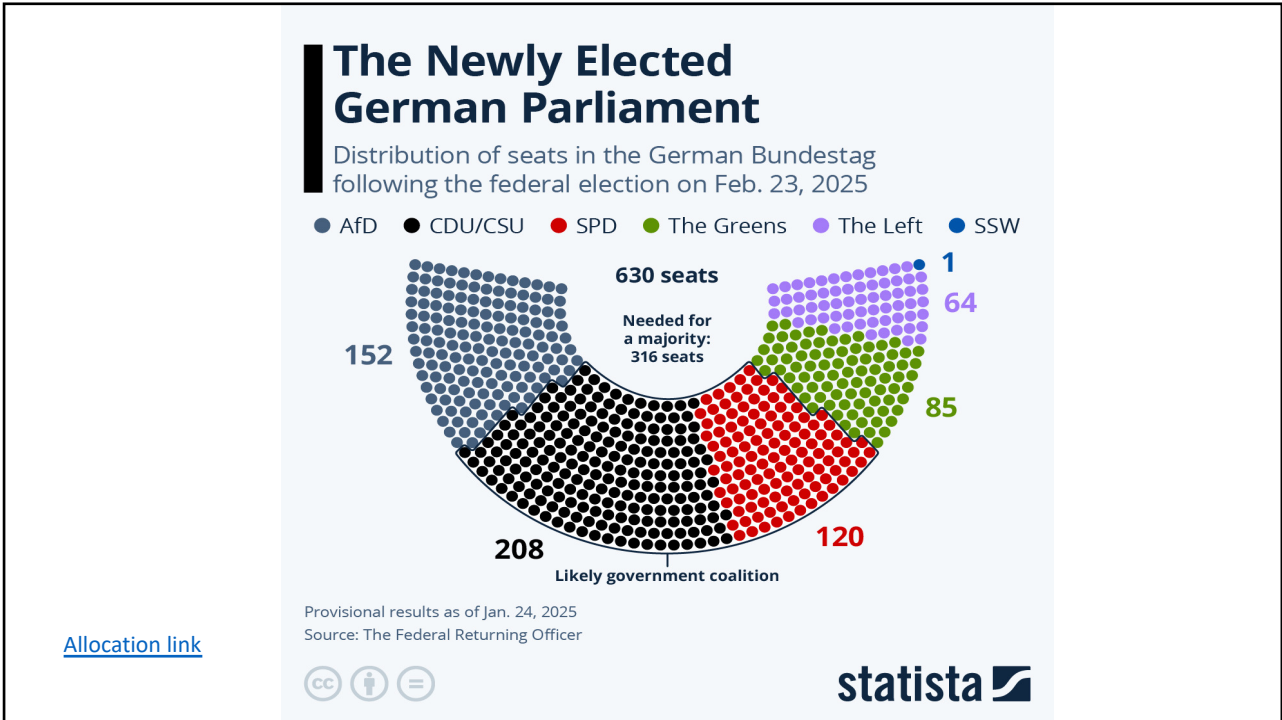
1. Party Leader	ELECTED (High Votes)
6. Popular Local Star	JUMPED TO #2
2. Senior Minister	ELECTED
3. Loyal Deputy	ELECTED
4. Policy Chief	BUMPED OUT
5. Local Candidate	Not Elected

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Mixed Systems (PR + FPTP)

- German model being the first
- 630 seats in Bundestag (MMP 50 % FPTP, 50 % List PR)
- Thai (Parallel 400 FPTP, 100 List PR)
- Korea- A total of 300 seats (Parallel 253 FPTP, 47 List PR)

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German Bundestag ballot

Stimmzettel
für die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag
im Wahlkreis 5 Kiel
am 18. September 2005

Sie haben 2 Stimmen

hier 1 Stimme
für die Wahl eines
Wahlkreisabgeordneten

hier 1 Stimme
für die Wahl
einer Landesliste (Partei)
- maßgebende Stimme für die
Verteilung der Sitze insgesamt
auf die einzelnen Parteien -

Erststimme **Zweitstimme**

1	Dr. Bartels, Hans Peter Angestellter Kiel Eismannstraße 16	SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands Dr. Ernst Blasser, Rosemann, Britta Hagedorn, Franz Thörmes, Gabriele Häberl, Glin, Sönke Die	1
2	Dr. Murmann, Philipp Gesundheitsführer Heikendorf Hardenbergblick 3	CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands Wolfgang Blümmen, Dr. Ota Schröder, Axel Eymann, Otto Bernhardt, Gero Storzmann	2
3	Müller, Klaus Distrikt-Volkswirt Kiel Wilhelmstr. 29	GRÜNE	BÜNDNIS 90/ DIE GRÜNEN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GRÜNE	BÜNDNIS 90/ DIE GRÜNEN Gisela Biele, Rainer Steinhilber, Monika Priebe, Sebastian David Fricke, Erika von Kalben	3
4	Blumenthal, Sebastian Angestellter Kiel Hamburger Chaussee 46	FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei Jürgen Koppelin, Dr. Christl Hapbach-Kassan, Sebastian Blumenthal, Wolfgang Schreiber, Dr. Michaela Baum	4
5	Thoro, Björn arbeitslos/Student Kiel Feldstraße 97	DIE LINKE.	Die Linkepartei, Schleswig-Holstein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	DIE LINKE.	Die Linkspartei, Schleswig-Holstein Lutz Heilmann, Heidi Baum, Wiebke Mufeld, Björn Thoro, Birgitte Wendt	5
6	Gutsche, Hermann EDV-Berater Kiel Königsstraße 22	NPD	Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NPD	Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands Uwe Schäfer, Jens Lötke, Ingo Szwarcz, Wolfgang Schimmel, Alfred Henning	6
7	Mrozewski, Oliver Koch Altenholz Danziger Straße 5	FAMILIE	FAMILIEN-PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	FAMILIE	FAMILIEN-PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS Mathias Kurten, Werner Lehmann, Sabine Lavi, Hiko Rohlfing, Britta Kurten	7
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	MLPD	Marxistisch-Leninistische Partei Deutschlands Jakobus Fritsch, Inga Marbach, Andrea Steffe Hübner, Joachim Griesbaum, Maria Meyer	8

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Proportion and FPTP vote

Party	Popular vote	FPTP seats	PR seats	Total seats (FPTP + PR)	FPTP seats
Party A	44%	64	?	?	
Party B	40%	33	?	?	
Party C	10%	0	?	?	
Party D	6%	3	?	?	
TOTAL	100%	100	100	200	

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Parallel: Proportion and allocation of seats

Party	Popular vote	FPTP seats	PR seats (non-compensatory)	Total seats (FPTP + PR)	PR seats (non-compensatory)	Total seats (FPTP + PR)
Party A	44%	64	44	108 (54% of assembly)		
Party B	40%	33	40	73 (36.5% of assembly)		
Party C	10%	0	10	10 (5% of assembly)		
Party D	6%	3	6	9 (4.5% of assembly)		
TOTAL	100%	100	100	200		

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MMP Compensation makes real proportion

Party	Popular vote	FPTP seats	PR seats (compensatory)	Total seats (FPTP + PR)	PR seats (compensatory)	Total seats (FPTP + PR)
Party A	44%	64	24	88 (44% of assembly)		
Party B	40%	33	47	80 (40% of assembly)		
Party C	10%	0	20	20 (10% of assembly)		
Party D	6%	3	9	12 (6% of assembly)		
TOTAL	100%	100	100	200	200	200

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The Single Transferable Vote

AUSTRALIAN SENATE EDITION

Unlike the House of Representatives (green chamber), the Senate (red chamber) is designed for **Proportional Representation**. It uses a complex system of preferences, quotas, and surplus transfers to ensure diverse voices are heard.

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SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

- ▶ Used in Dunedin City Council elections since 2004
- ▶ A proportional representation system
- ▶ Rank as many or few candidates as you like
- ▶ Rankings must be consecutive
- ▶ Designed to minimise wasted votes

BALLOT PAPER

Place the candidates in order of preference (1,2,3 etc).
Rank as many candidates as you wish.

Barry Banana	3
Andy Apple	1
Timmy Tamarillo	5
Suzy Strawberry	4
Wendy Watermelon	2

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AUSTRALIAN SENATE ELECTIONS

The Droop Quota

The mathematical magic behind the Single Transferable Vote (STV). It defines the exact number of votes a candidate needs to guarantee election without exhausting the ballot.

THE OFFICIAL FORMULA

QUOTA

=

floor(

Total Formal Votes

Total Seats + 1

) + 1

In Australia, the division ignores any remainders (fractions). You divide, drop the decimal, and simply add 1.

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Why divide by Seats + 1?

If there is **1 seat** to fill, you divide by 2 (which is 1+1). Why? Because if you get more than 50% of the vote (half + 1), it is mathematically impossible for anyone else to beat you.

For a standard Australian State Senate election, there are **6 seats**. We divide the total votes by 7 (which is 6+1). If 6 candidates all achieve exactly one-seventh of the vote plus one, they use up so many votes that a 7th candidate cannot possibly catch them.

REAL-WORLD CALCULATION

Total Formal Votes: **100,000**

Seats to Fill: **6**

↓ Step 1: Divide by (6 + 1) ↓

$100,000 \div 7 =$ **14,285.714...**

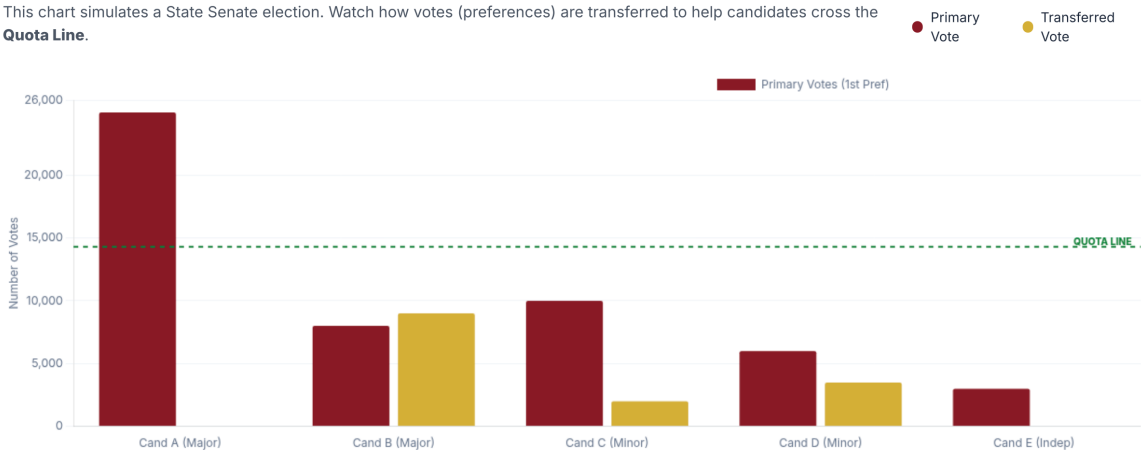
↓ Step 2: Drop remainder, Add 1 ↓

The Droop Quota: **14,286**

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3. The Count: A Race to the Finish

This chart simulates a State Senate election. Watch how votes (preferences) are transferred to help candidates cross the **Quota Line**.



A. Primary Count

Everyone's "Number 1" votes are counted. **Candidate A** (Red) has a huge number of votes, exceeding the quota. They are elected immediately.

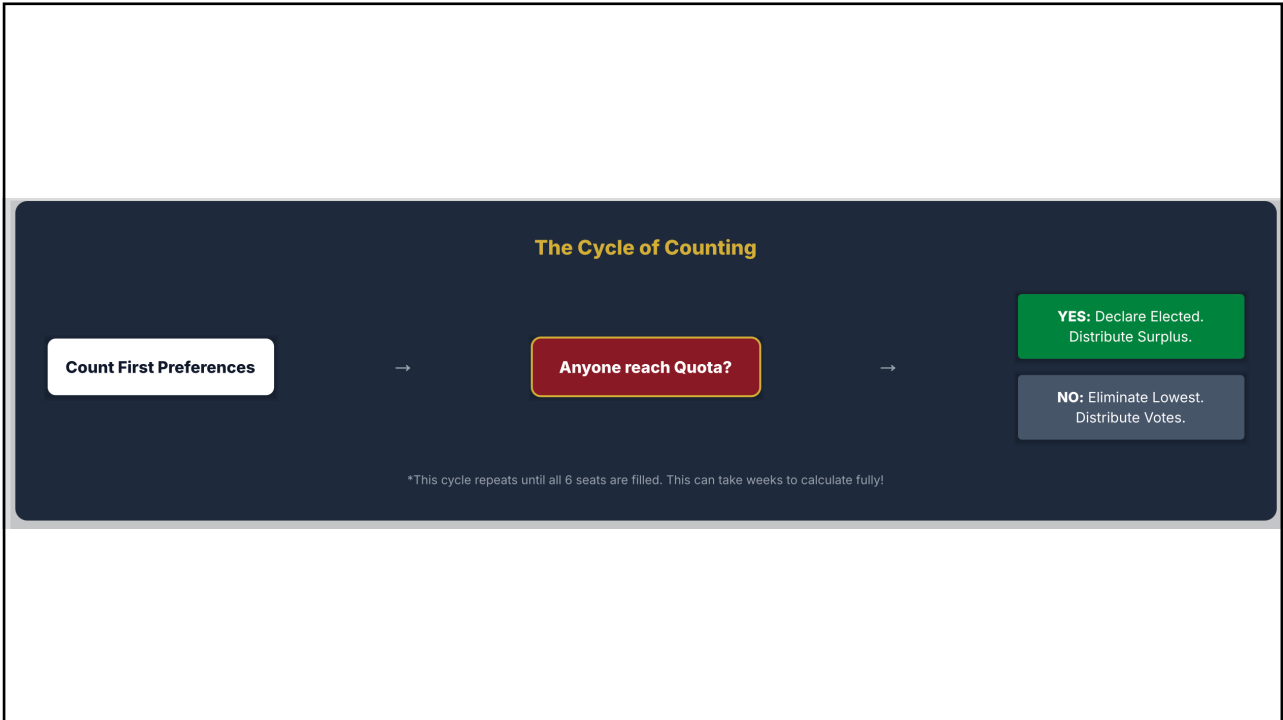
B. Surplus Transfer

Candidate A didn't need *all* those votes. The surplus is transferred to their voters' "Number 2" choices (mostly Candidate B). The value is weighted (fractional).

C. Elimination

No one else has a quota? The candidate with the **lowest** votes (Candidate F) is eliminated. Their votes are transferred at full value to the next preference.

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