

## A7 Voting Methods

**Simple Majority:** Every voter has one vote, the candidate with the highest number of votes win. This is used in most of our clubs as it is the simplest and quickest for small elections.

**Preferential Voting (Single Transferable Vote):** Each candidate is ranked by voters and totalled. The candidate with the least first preference votes is eliminated, and their remaining votes transferred to other candidates in accordance to the voters' preferences. This voting system is used in Government Elections in Australia.

**Two-Round Runoff voting:** Every voter has one vote, the two candidates with the highest vote totals pass through the first round. The second round is a vote between the two candidates with the candidate with the highest votes winning.

**Borda Count:** Each candidate is ranked by voters and the mean rank for each candidate is calculated and the candidate with the highest rank is the winner. This voting method attempts to better estimate voting preferences than preferential voting but is dependent on the weights behind each preference.

## Voting Examples

We'll look at an example to demonstrate the differences of voting methods and their impact on the result. *Table 1* describes the voting preferences of twenty-five voters for three candidates and each voter has ranked their candidate. With *First Past the Post* voting, Candidate C will win the election as they have the greatest number of First Preference Votes.

Table 1: Voter Totals

Voter Totals			
Preference	1	2	3
Candidate A	9	11	5
Candidate B	6	6	13
Candidate C	10	8	7

With Borda Count voting, Candidate A wins as the most preferred candidate amongst voters with a total value of 54. This values use the weights described in *Table 2* and different weights may result in a different winner and weights are a reflection of much a person is 'preferred'.

Table 2: Borda Count Weights

Vote Weights	
Vote Preference	Vote Weight
1	3
2	2
3	1

Table 3: Borda Count Totals

Winner	Candidate A
Candidate A	54
Candidate B	43
Candidate C	53

*Table 4* shows that Candidate C will be the winner with a Preferential voting system as Candidate B had the least amount of first preference votes and their votes have been transferred to the remaining candidates.

Table 4: Preferential Voting (STV total)

Winner	Candidate C
Candidate A	12
Candidate C	14

### Standard Election Process (Simple Majority)

1. The chairperson of the meeting announces, one at a time, which position is up for election and open the floor for nominations.

#### 2. Nominations

- a) A member of the meeting nominates a candidate for the position
- b) Another member must second this nomination
- c) The person nominated must accept the nomination
- d) That person is now up for election for the stated position.
  - i. **IF** the nomination is not seconded, or if the position is not accepted then that person is not up for nominations.
  - ii. If you cannot get someone up for a nomination, then that position must remain vacant until a suitable candidate can be found. This will involve a separate election at an SGM at a later date.
  - iii. The only positions that cannot remain vacant is President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you cannot get someone for one of these positions then the club will lapse. Please contact clubs@activateuts.com.au if this is the case.

3. After one or more candidate up for election the floor opens to allow nominees to give a small speech if they wish about why they should be elected. This time also allows other members to ask questions.

4. Once discussions finish you move onto voting.

#### 5. Voting

a) The nominees must all leave the room or if just voting by a show of hands, not be able to see who is voting by closing their eyes etc.

b) The Chairperson is entitled to a casting vote in case of a tie.

c) If there is only ONE candidate for a position then the candidate is elected unopposed.

d) If there is MULTIPLE candidates for a position:

- i. Members of the club either vote FOR Member 1, FOR Member 2, or ABSTAIN.
- ii. If one member has more votes than the other(s) then that person is elected into the position
- iii. If there is a tie between multiple candidates then everyone must revote, only between those candidates that were tied, or abstain.
- iv. Re-voting may occur multiple times, however if a decision cannot be reached the position remains vacant (unless one of the 3 positions that must be filled as previously stated)

6. Nominations for each position are done one at a time, and you only move onto the next position once they have been filled or it is decided that it will remain vacant.

7. Once all positions have been filled the voting process closes and the meeting can be called to a close.