Movable Votes

Get your hands on 4 great voting rules.
See fair-share tallies organize voters.
Vote fast on budgets, policies and projects.

A Tally Board has
- A card for each voter,
- A column for each option,
- A finish line for the favorites.

Instant Runoff Voting Elects One
- A finish line marks the height of half the cards + 1. That is how many votes a candidate needs to win.
- Eliminate the weakest candidate if no one wins. Draw names from a hat to break ties.
- Move your card if your candidate loses. This is your “movable vote”.
- Repeat until one candidate reaches the finish line!

This chart shows four columns on a tally board. The rule dropped Anna, so voter JJ moved. Then Bianca lost, so BB and GG moved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anna</th>
<th>Bianca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eliminated 1st</td>
<td>Eliminated 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IRV elects leaders in San Francisco, Burlington.... It elects students at Duke, Rice, Reed, MIT, UCLA...

By organizing voters, Instant Runoffs avoid:
Spoilers and the lesser-of-two-evils choice;
Costly runoffs and winners-without-mandates.

1. A card that moves is no bigger than any other: T, F
2. Your 2nd choice vote can’t hurt your 1st choice: T, F
3. Only one candidate can reach 50% + 1 vote: T, F

Choice Voting Electing 3 Reps

- The finish line is set at 1/4 of the cards plus one.
- Do not give a card to a candidate who has finished.
- Eliminate the weakest candidates one at a time.
- Move your cards until three candidates win!

It is used in Australian and Irish elections, at Princeton, Harvard, Berkeley, Oxford, Cambridge, in some unions and in the Church of England.

It gives each group their fair share of seats. Voters get more choices; so more turnout to vote. It makes more effective votes that elect reps.

4. What total fraction must the three reps win?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Celia</th>
<th>Diana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRV Winner</td>
<td>Runner up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish Line</td>
<td>Finish Line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Celia</th>
<th>Diana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B B</td>
<td>G G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J J</td>
<td>Z Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T T</td>
<td>D D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K K</td>
<td>V V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fair Shares Pick Public Goods...  

Let's say we each put in $1 to buy some items. You get two 25¢ voting cards and a 50¢ card. 

We say an item needs modest support from 8 of us to prove it is a public good worth public money. So the finish line marks the height of 8 cards. 

You may put only 1 of your cards in a column. So you can't dump all your cards on a private item. Tip: Give your double card to your favorite. This way 4 eager voters can fund a low-cost item. 

A costly item must fill several columns. A column here holds $2, so a $4 item must fill 2 columns. 

When an item wins, the banker hides its cards. We drop an item if it costs more than all the cards left. Then 1 at a time, we drop the least popular item with the lowest level of cards in its columns. 

Move your card from a loser to your next choice. Tip: You may save a threatened favorite by briefly withholding your cards from lower-choice items. 

We stop when all items still on the board are paid. Only a few items can win, but all voters can win! 

...and Set Budgets  

Each funding level is like another project. It needs enough cards to fill it up. 

The column for "$3 O.J." starts at the bottom. Its finish line is at the tally board's $3 level. The column for "$5 O.J." is blocked off up to $3. Its finish line is at $5; so it needs only $2 in cards. 

A supporter must put a card in the lower level first. Should people who pay more taxes or dues get more power to spend public money? 

One at a time, the weak ones lose and the money moves – to help favorites still in the running. Should we let a member fund private items? Should voters see grants by a rep? 

Answers: 1 True, 2 True, 3 True; 4 3/4 + 3 votes; 5 no, 6 no, 7 yes (no), 8 many; 9 middle, 10 yes. 

Pairwise Centers a Policy 

Flag C stands at our center, by the median voter. Three flags surround C, about 5' from it. 

Pairwise asks: "Are you closer to flag A than B? If so, please raise 1 hand." Then A against C, etc. We put each total in the Pairwise table below. 

The winner must top every rival, 1-against-1. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>against</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for C</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A pole stands at our center, by the median voter. It holds a short Red ribbon and a long Blue one. 

If the Red ribbon gets to you, the Red policy gets your vote with its narrow appeal. 

If the Red cannot touch you, the wide appeal of the Blue policy gets your vote. Which 1 wins? 

If the flags are places for a heater in an icy cold room: 9. Do we put it at our middle or in the biggest group? 10. Do we turn on its fan to spread the heat wide? 

Full-Choice Ballots 

Only a small group can crowd around a tally board. Big groups use paper ballots, tallied by computer for all four voting rules. 

Old-fashioned ballots oversimplify most issues. They let you mark only one option "yes", leaving all others "no". This creates false dichotomies, limited choices that polarize voters and increase conflict. 

Full-choice ballots cut those negative results. They let you rank a 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd etc. Ranks reveal the labels, "us versus them" or left versus right, hide moderate points of view. 

...These rules strengthen votes and thus mandates. They organize voters and lift the number supporting a Chairperson from a plurality to a majority, a Council from a plurality to over three quarters, a Budget from a few power blocs to all members, a Policy from a one-sided to an over-all majority. 

Learn more at AccurateDemocracy.com. Then build support in your school, club or town with FairVote, The Center for Voting and Democracy. 

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