

The First Past the Post electoral system

description	First Past the Post is an electoral system used in single-member districts. Candidates can be from parties, or they can be independent candidates. Voters vote for one candidate only, and the candidate with the highest number of votes wins the seat. The winner does not have to win more than half the votes, meaning that First Past the Post is a plurality system.										
some of the countries that use the system	Bangladesh, Canada, India, Malaysia, United Kingdom, USA, Yemen										
advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple to vote and to count votes • single member districts promote close links between voters and the elected member • it is likely that one party will win a majority of seats unless there are several parties with strong support • regional or localized parties can win seats • excludes extremist parties from winning seats • allows independent candidates 										
disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a party's share of seats in an election is not necessarily close to its share of votes • there is no incentive for supporters of smaller parties to vote • there can be large numbers of votes for losing candidates • because parties need to nominate candidates with wide appeal, women and minorities find it difficult to be chosen as candidates for a party 										
implications for drawing district boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expensive and time-consuming • requires accurate population and geographic data • there can be political pressure over the location of district boundaries because location of district boundaries can affect a party's chances in the district 										
implications for political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourages a few strong broadly-based parties • smaller parties with widely-spread support find it difficult to win seats 										
representation of women	A woman candidate can win a seat if selected by a party as a candidate for a seat where the party has strong support. To guarantee women are elected under First Past the Post, the law has to reserve districts in which only women candidates can be elected.										
representation of minorities	A person from a minority community can win a seat if selected by a major party as a candidate for a seat where the party or the minority has strong support. Otherwise to guarantee minority representation, seats may have to be reserved which only minority candidates may contest.										
Example 1	<p style="text-align: center;">electoral district with 1,000 voters, 1,000 valid votes</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>candidate 1</td><td style="text-align: right;">250</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 2</td><td style="text-align: right;">340</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 3</td><td style="text-align: right;">60</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 4</td><td style="text-align: right;">350</td></tr> <tr><td>total votes</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,000</td></tr> </table> <p>winner: candidate 4</p>	candidate 1	250	candidate 2	340	candidate 3	60	candidate 4	350	total votes	1,000
candidate 1	250										
candidate 2	340										
candidate 3	60										
candidate 4	350										
total votes	1,000										
Example 2	<p style="text-align: center;">electoral district with 1,000 voters, 1,000 valid votes</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>candidate 1</td><td style="text-align: right;">30</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 2</td><td style="text-align: right;">650</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 3</td><td style="text-align: right;">120</td></tr> <tr><td>candidate 4</td><td style="text-align: right;">200</td></tr> <tr><td>total votes</td><td style="text-align: right;">1,000</td></tr> </table> <p>winner: candidate 2</p>	candidate 1	30	candidate 2	650	candidate 3	120	candidate 4	200	total votes	1,000
candidate 1	30										
candidate 2	650										
candidate 3	120										
candidate 4	200										
total votes	1,000										

