

The Limited Open List Proportional Representation electoral system

description	Limited Open List is a form of Proportional Representation in which voters vote for a party and may then choose to vote for one candidate on that same party's list. The votes cast for a party determine each party's entitlement to seats. A voter who votes only for a party and does not also vote for one of that party's list candidates is regarded as accepting the party's ranking of its list. The votes cast for individual candidates on a list determine the rank ordering of each party's candidates and therefore which candidates from the party receive the seats allocated to that party.
some of the countries that use the system	Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden
advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seats are shared fairly between parties according to the numbers of votes they win • allows smaller parties to be represented • encourages cooperation between parties in the legislature • in the absence of remedial measures, parties need 'balanced' lists to attract votes, thus promoting representation of women and minorities • voters have some ability to override parties' list ranking decisions • giving voters more control over who is elected may result in the election process being regarded as more legitimate
disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need large ballots if all the candidates of each party must appear on the ballot, e.g. if Baghdad governorate was a single electoral district, voters could be entitled to mark one name out of several thousand candidates. Large ballots create increased costs and logistical issues, and can cause voter confusion, thus increasing the risk of invalid votes. • more complex to calculate the election results than in non-proportional systems • can improve the chances of extremist candidates • limited effectiveness in changing parties' ordering of list candidates • can increase incentives for vote buying
effect of the number of seats in a district	Larger electoral districts tend to produce more proportional results.
implications for political parties	<p>can weaken parties and their leaderships because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voters can override parties' list ranking decisions • candidates of the same party must compete with each other for votes
representation of women	<p>Voters' choices of candidates can negate parties' efforts to promote the election of women candidates unless remedial measures are taken, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory quotas for women on party lists • reserved seats to which only women can be elected, or • seats allocated to highest polling unsuccessful women candidates until a mandatory level of representation is achieved.
representation of minorities	<p>Voters' choices of candidates can negate parties' efforts to promote the election of minority candidates unless remedial measures are taken, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory quotas of minority candidates • reserved seats to which only minority candidates can be elected, or • a waiver for minority parties of any qualifying threshold.

Example 1

electoral district with 5 seats, 1000 voters, 1000 party votes, 1000 candidate votes, no threshold

	party A	party B	party C	party D
party votes	166	254	400	180
votes for candidate 1	4	5	2	30
votes for candidate 2	2	13	110	40
votes for candidate 3	60	180	8	58
votes for candidate 4	8	4	240	20
votes for candidate 5	92	52	40	32

Hare quota: $1000/5 = 200$

	party A	party B	party C	party D
quotas	0.83	1.27	2.00	0.90
integer seats	0	1	2	0
remainder seats	1			1
total seats	1	1	2	1
winning candidates	A5	B3	C4, C2	D3

Example 2

electoral district with 10 seats, 100,000 voters, 100,000 party votes, 40,000 candidate votes, no threshold

	party A	party B	party C
party votes	58,000	27,200	14,800
votes for candidate 1	2,500	250	500
votes for candidate 2	2,250	0	750
votes for candidate 3	1,750	500	750
votes for candidate 4	3,000	200	900
votes for candidate 5	3,250	800	550
votes for candidate 6	1,900	700	1,400
votes for candidate 7	3,000	100	750
votes for candidate 8	4,600	150	650
votes for candidate 9	3,250	450	600
votes for candidate 10	3,500	450	550
total candidate votes	29,000	3,600	7,400

Hare quota: $100,000/10 = 10,000$

	party A	party B	party C
quotas	5.80	2.72	1.48
integer seats	5	2	1
remainder seats	1	1	
total seats	6	3	1
winning candidates	A8, A10, A5, A9, A4, A7	B5, B6, B3	C6