

Summary Chart comparing Electoral Systems

System	Description	Countries Used	Advantages	Disadvantages	Female Representation Options	Ethnic Minority Representation Options	Ease of voting and counting	Relative Cost
Proportional Representation Systems —The results mirror closely the political and ethnic makeup of the voters.								
List Proportional Representation-Open (List PR-Open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi member districts -Voters vote for one or more candidates -Parties get seats based upon the total number of votes party candidates receive -Candidates with the most personal votes receive the party seats. 	Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, Kosovo, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highly proportional results -Gives voters greater control over parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weakens parties -Voter / representative links are weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved slots on the list (with gender slots “fixed,” often at one in three or one in four) -Reserved seats in the assembly -Allocate seats to best losers until mandatory level of representation is reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved slots on the list (with ethnic slots “fixed”) -Reserved seats in the assembly -Ethnic parties with sufficient support can win seats -Waive threshold for parties representing minorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Difficult if voters can choose more than one candidate -Simple if only one voter choice allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher than average costs because of large ballots and longer counts
List Proportional Representation-Closed (List PR-Closed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi member districts -Voters vote for one party -Parties get seats based upon the total number of votes the party receives -Candidates are allocated the party’s seats in the order they appear on its list. 	France, Iraq (2005), Israel, Nepal, Portugal, South Africa, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highly proportional results -Strengthens parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Voter / representative links are weak -Parties have complete control over party lists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved slots on the party list (often at one in three or one in four) -Reserved seats in the assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved slots on the party list -Reserved seats in the assembly -Ethnic parties with sufficient support can win seats -Waive threshold for parties representing minorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Simple as voters choose only one party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Average costs because of simple ballots

System	Description	Countries Used	Advantages	Disadvantages	Female Representation Options	Ethnic Minority Representation Options	Ease of voting and counting	Relative Cost
Single Transferable Vote (STV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi member districts -Voters indicate preferences for candidates, from one up to however many candidates are on the ballot -Preferences are transferred between candidates until enough candidates have sufficient votes to win a seat -If districts are reasonably sized STV outcomes are usually reasonably proportional, although the system doesn't set out to be so in the way that List PR or MMP do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ireland, Malta, Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highly proportional results -Gives voters greater control over parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weakens political parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved seats in the assembly -Quota of women candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved seats in the assembly -District boundaries drawn to create districts advantaging minority voters -Quota of minority candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very difficult with a large number of candidates if voters must number several or all candidates on the ballot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher than average because of large ballots as well as the need to transfer voter preferences between candidates

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<p>Combination Systems: These systems combine the qualities of both proportional and majoritarian/plurality systems.</p>								
<p>Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)</p>	<p>-Majoritarian seats provide geographic representation -Compensatory list PR seats adjust for any disproportionality produced in the majoritarian system</p>	<p>- Albania, Bolivia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lesotho, Mexico, New Zealand, Venezuela</p>	<p>-Geographic representation creates close link between voters and representatives -Compensatory List PR seats used to give highly proportional political representation, including representation of minorities</p>	<p>-Requires drawing district boundaries</p>	<p>-Reserved slots on the party lists -Reserved seats to which only women can be elected</p>	<p>-Reserved slots on the party lists -Boundaries drawn in the geographic seats to create districts with a plurality of minority voters -Reserved seats -Ethnic parties with sufficient support can win seats -Waive threshold for parties representing minorities</p>	<p>-More difficult as votes must make a proportional choice and a majoritarian choice</p>	<p>-Higher than average costs if two ballots are produced; the count is slightly more complicated</p>

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Parallel System (PS)	-Majoritarian seats provide geographic representation -List PR seats are used to provide a degree of proportional political representation -unlike MMP, no account is taken of the results in the majoritarian seats in calculating the allocation of list seats	Armenia, Japan, Lithuania, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine	-Geographic representation creates close link between voters and representatives -List PR seats provide proportional political representation, including representation of minorities -Unlike the MMP system, list seats are not allocated to compensate for the disproportionality produced in the geographic system	-No guarantee of overall proportionality	-Reserved slots on the party lists -Reserved seats in the assembly	-Reserved slots on the party lists -Boundaries drawn in the geographic seats to create districts with a plurality of minority voters -Reserved seats -Ethnic parties with sufficient support can win seats -Waive threshold for parties representing minorities	-More difficult as voters must usually make a proportional choice and a majoritarian choice	-Higher than average costs if two ballots are produced; the count is slightly more complicated
Majoritarian/Plurality systems: Candidates must win either a majority or the most votes in order to win. The results are not necessarily proportional								
First Past the Post (FPTP)	-Single member districts -Voters have one vote -Candidate with the most votes wins	United States, India, Canada, United Kingdom	-Voter / representative links are strong -Promotes a small number of broadly based parties	-More than half of all voters can vote for losing candidates -Can be very disproportional -Difficult to create electoral districts	- <u>Difficult</u> -Reserved seats in the assembly -Reserve some districts for female candidates	-District lines drawn to create districts with a plurality of minority voters -Reserved seats in the assembly	-Simple as voters choose only one candidate	-Average because of ease of ballot and count

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Block Vote (BV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi member districts -Voters have as many votes as there are seats -The candidates with the most votes win seats 	Cayman Islands, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Maldives, Mauritius, Palestinian Authority, Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -allows links between voters and representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can result in highly disproportional results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidate quotas -Reserved seats in the assembly -Award seats to best losers until a mandatory level of representation is reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidate quotas -Reserved seats in the assembly -Award seats to best losers until a mandatory level of representation is reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very difficult with a large number of candidates and seats as voters must vote multiple times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher than average because of large ballots
Alternative Vote (AV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Single member districts -Voters indicate preferences for candidates, from one to however many candidates are on the ballot -Preferences are transferred between candidates until one has achieved an absolute majority 	-Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Voters are likely to contribute to electing the winning candidate -Promotes moderate politics as candidates must campaign not only for first preferences, but for second, third, and fourth voter preferences as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can be very disproportional -Difficult to create electoral districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Difficult</u> -Candidate quotas -Reserved seats in the assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -District boundaries drawn to create districts with a plurality of minority voters -Candidate quotas -Reserved seats in the assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very difficult with a large number of candidates if voters must number several or all candidates on the ballot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher than average because of large ballots as well as the need to transfer voter preferences between candidates

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Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Multi-member districts. -Voters vote for one candidate -Candidates with the highest numbers of votes win seats -Usually classified as a semi-proportional system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jordan -Vanuatu -Afghanistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Helps smaller parties win seats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not proportional -Weakens parties -Voter / Representative links are weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved seats in the assembly -Candidate quotas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reserved seats in the assembly -Candidate quotas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very difficult with a large number of candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Higher than average costs because of large ballots and longer counts