

## 1. Description of election methods

### 1.1. Plurality at large

Current election method. Voters have a number of votes equal to the number of open seats. Each candidate can be selected only once.

### 1.2. Cumulative at large

Voters have a number of votes equal to the number of open seats. Votes can be cast for multiple candidates or all votes may be cast for a single candidate.

### 1.3. Limited at large

Voters may only cast a single vote, regardless of the number of open seats.

### 1.4. Ranked choice

Voters may only cast a single vote, however they rank the candidates in order of preference. The candidate receiving the lowest number of 1<sup>st</sup> preference votes is eliminated. Votes cast for this candidate are transferred to those voters' second choices. This process is repeated until candidates equal to number of open seats have received a majority vote.

## 2. Description of judging criteria

### 2.1. Cost

The cost of implementation and administration for each method.

### 2.2. Turnout

The potential effect of the method on voter turnout, estimated based on the studies of historical turnout observed for each method.

### 2.3. Diversity of viewpoints

The potential of each method to allow the inclusion of different viewpoints to represented on the body.

### 2.4. More candidates and competitive elections

The potential that each method will encourage more candidates to seek office and to make those campaigns competitive.

### 2.5. Simplicity/Ease of use

The ease of use for the voter, both in their ability to cast a valid ballot and their ability to determine how to vote.

### 2.6. Stable/Effective government

Responsiveness of the government to the electorate and ability to get required decisions and business accomplished.

## 3. Discussion of election methods and evaluation based on judging criteria

Evaluation criteria	Plurality at large	Cumulative at large	Limited at large	Ranked Choice
Cost	Currently in use, no cost to implement	Not compatible with current or future systems, implementation would require 3rd party purchase, significant voter education	Similar to current method, requires some voter education	Not compatible with current systems for multi-seat races, implementation would require 3rd party purchase, requires some voter education
Turnout	Scores based on actual turnout results of cities of similar demographics (value = turnout percentage multiplied by 5)			
Diversity of	Majority block of	Allows voters to	Limited ability of	Each voter has

viewpoints	electorate able to select all candidates	concentrate their votes for candidate of their choice	majority block to select candidates, however multiple candidates have potential to dilute votes of given viewpoint	increased chance of vote going towards selecting a candidate
More candidates / competitive elections	Has perception of benefiting incumbency	May allow strategic campaigning	May allow strategic campaigning	Increases chances of successful campaign
Simplicity/Ease of use	As current method is well understood, allows for some strategic voting	Similar to current method but more strategic voting is possible	Simplified version of current method	Requires more effort by voter to fully cast ballot
Stable/Effective government	Has perception of being less responsive to electorate	Considered more neutral	Considered more neutral	Potentially more responsive to electorate

#### 4. Rank and scoring results

Evaluation criteria*	Plurality at large	Cumulative at large	Limited at large	Ranked Choice
Cost (high score = low cost)	5	1	4	2
Turnout (high score = high turnout)	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.75
Diversity of viewpoints (high score = more diversity)	2	4	3	5
More candidates/competitive elections (high score = more)	2	3	3	4
Simplicity/Ease of use (high score = simple)	4	3	5	3
Stable/Effective government (high score = more stable)	2	3	3	4
<b>Score (all ranks added together)</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>21.75</b>

\*1 = low score, 3 = neutral/no effect, 5 = high score

#### 5. Discussion of results