

Full-Choice Ballots

Only a small group can crowd around a tally board. Big groups use paper ballots, tallied by computer.

Old-fashioned ballots oversimplify most issues. They let you mark only one option “yes”, leaving all others “no”. This creates false dichotomies leading to social polarization and unnecessary conflict.

Full-choice ballots reduce those negative results. They let a voter rank his 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd etc. Ranks often reveal the dichotomies, “us versus them” or left versus right, hide moderate points of view.

1

VOTE HERE

2

Fill only one “O” on each line.

3

Names	Best Ranks Worst					
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
John McCain	○	○	○	○	○	○
Barack Obama	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hillary Clinton	○	○	○	○	○	○
John Anderson	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ross Perot	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ralph Nader	○	○	○	○	○	○
Michael Bloomberg	○	○	○	○	○	○
<i>Write In</i>	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Movable Votes

Get your hands on **5** great voting rules.
See fair-share tallies organize voters.
Vote fast on **budgets**, **reps** and **projects**.



A tally board has

- A **card** for each voter,
- A **column** for each option,
- A **finish line** for the favorites. →

Budget Refill Votes Adjust Departments

- A big department has several **columns** to fill.
- The columns each need \$100... for the department to reach last year’s budget; that’s its **refill line**.
- A supporter’s **cards** help refill its budget columns. Voters can push it above its refill line. But its gain will be another department’s loss.

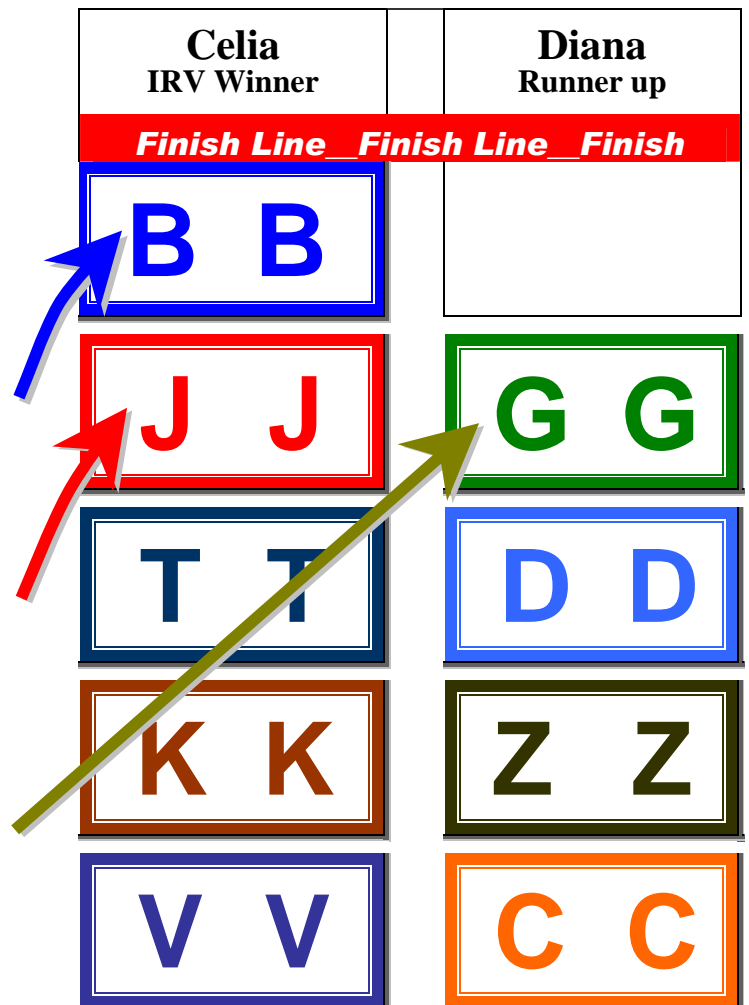
Let’s say a council of 20 decides each program needs modest support from 10 members to restore its funding. So a column needs 10 cards from 10 voters to reach its refill line, or as few as 5 double cards from eager voters.

The group wants to budget 4 low-cost activities with 1 column each, plus 3 costly programs with 2 columns each. Those 10 columns X 10 cards to refill each = 100 cards.

The 100 cards / 20 voters = 5 cards for each voter; that’s 1 double and 3 singles. You may put only 1 in a column.

- **Set target** budgets and rank your priorities. If a budget goes over your target, its **priority** drops. So **move** your cards to your under-funded priorities.
- We **stop** moving cards when a hidden timer sounds. You lose cards that are not on the board. This deters faking votes until a last-moment switch.
- A supermajority may **reopen** the voting.

10. Did departments need a winning number of votes?
11. Did your second choice hurt your first choice?
12. Should a rep’s cards be so visible to voters?
13. Who could use Budget Refill Voting?



Instant Runoff Voting Elects 1 Winner

For a tabletop tally by **Instant Runoff Voting**:

- The **finish line** is 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 a “movable vote.”
- **Repeat** until one candidate reaches the finish line!

This **chart** shows four columns on a tally board. The rule **eliminated** Anna, so **voter JJ** moved his card. Then Bianca **lost**, so **BB** and **GG** moved their cards.

Anna Eliminated 1 st		Bianca Eliminated 2 nd
		B B
J J		G G

Pairwise Tally Centers a Policy example

- ✦ Flag C stands at our **center**, by the median voter. Three flags surround C, about 5' from it.
- ✦ We ask: “Are you closer to flag A than flag 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, **one-against-one**.

against	A	B	C	D
for A	—	2	2	3
for B	5	—	2	3
for C	5	5	—	4
for D	4	4	3	—

- ✦ A pole stands at our center, by the median voters. 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.
- ✦ But if the **Red** cannot touch you, the **wide appeal** of the **Blue** policy gets your vote. Which 1 wins?

If the poles are places for a **heater** in an icy cold room:

- Do we turn on its fan to spread the heat wide?
- Put it at the center or in the biggest group?
- Do voters on the fringes have any influence?
- Did the middle voter enact any policy alone?
- Did this favor a balanced or a one-sided policy?
- Should a first-choice vote count more?

Read full answers at web site: BRV: no, no, yes, —. Pairwise: yes, mid, yes, balanced, no.

Instant Runoff Voting cont.

By **organizing voters**, Instant Runoff Voting avoids: Spoiler candidates *and* the lesser-of-two-evils choice; Costly runoffs *and* winners-without-mandates.

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

- How can your group use this voting rule?
- A card that moves is no bigger than any other: T, F
- Your 2nd choice vote can't hurt your 1st choice: T, F
- Only one candidate can reach 50% + 1 vote: T, F

Single Transferable Vote Elects 3 Reps

For a 3-seat election by **Single Transferable Vote**:

- The **finish line** is set at 1/4 of the cards + 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!

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

STV gives each group their **fair share** of council seats. It elects more **women** and political **minority** candidates. Voters get more **choices**; so more **turnout** to vote. It makes more **effective votes** that elect reps.

- What total percent must three STV reps win?
 - Only three candidates can win 25% + 1 vote: T, F
- Ask questions one thru three with each voting rule.

Answers: IRV: —, T, T, T. STV: 3/4, T. MMV: no, your option, no, no.

Movable Money Votes Buy Public Goods

For Fair-share Spending by **Movable Money Votes**:

- ✦ 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 one 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 two columns.
 - ✦ When an item wins, the banker hides its cards. We **drop** any that cost more than all the cards left. Then one 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 table are paid. Only a few items can win, but all voters can win!
- Should we let each member fund private items?
 - Did your second choice hurt your first choice?
 - Should voters who pay more taxes get more power a) to spend public money? b) to set public laws?