

# Counting Votes - Comparing first past the post and ranked voting

## First Past the Post

### How you vote

- You choose **one candidate** and mark an X beside their name

### How votes are counted


- All the votes are added up.
- The candidate with the most votes wins.

The winner doesn't need a majority, just more than anyone else.

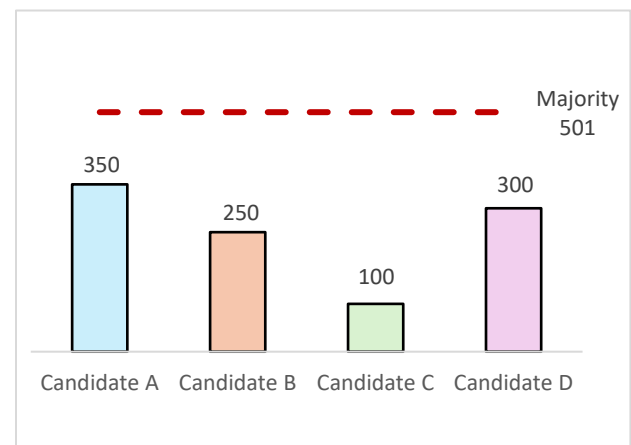


## First past the post – Example

This example is for illustrative purposes only.

- Candidate A – 350 votes  **WINNER**
  - Candidate B – 250 votes
  - Candidate C – 100 votes
  - Candidate D – 300 votes
- Total votes – 1,000**

**Result:** Candidate A wins with 350 votes (35%). This is not a majority, but it is more than any other candidate.

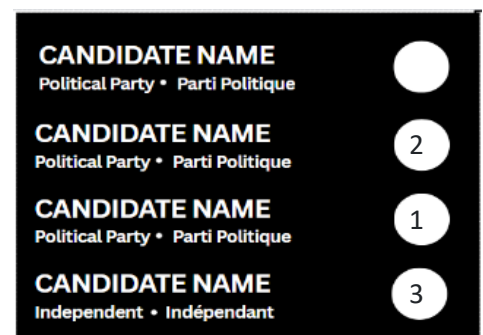


## Ranked vote - Example

This example is for illustrative purposes only.

### How you vote

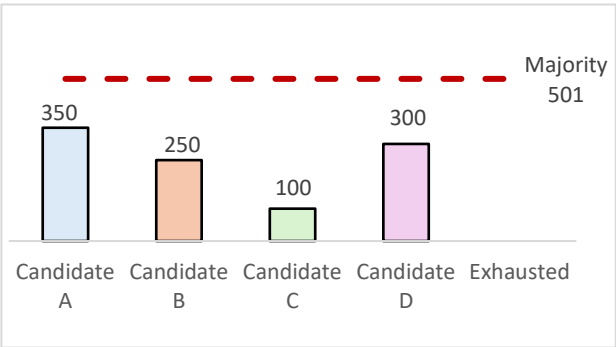
- Instead of picking one, you **rank candidates** in order of preference (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.)
- You can rank as many or as few as you want.



# How votes are counted

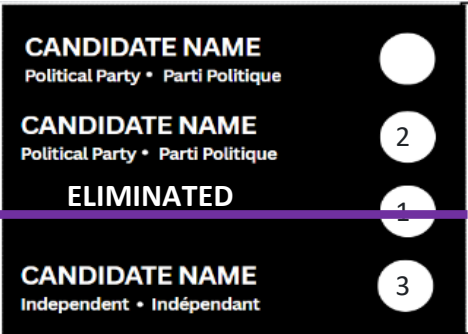
**Round one:** Everyone’s first preference votes are counted.

If a candidate has more than 50%, they are elected. If not, there is a second round.



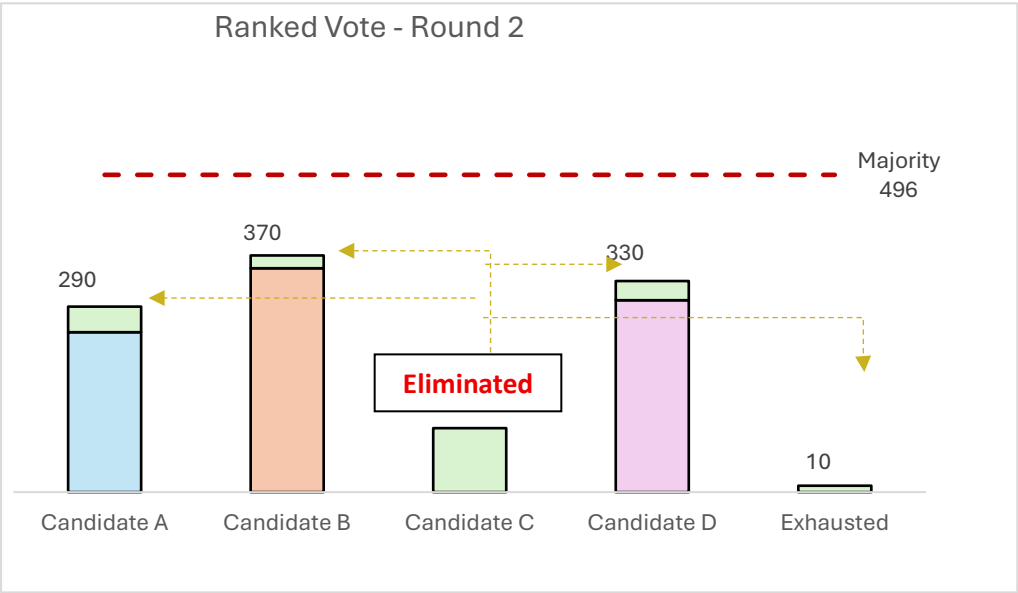
**Round two:** The candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated. If your first-choice candidate was eliminated, your vote is moved to your **next choice** candidate. If your ballot didn’t have a next choice, it is “exhausted” and removed from the count. If a candidate has more than 50%, they are elected. If not, there is a third round.

In this example, Candidate C is eliminated as received the fewest votes (100).



The redistribution of the second preferences those voters are as follows: To Candidate A-40, to Candidate B – 20, to Candidate D, 30. There were 10 ballots with no second preference and are exhausted.

No majority is reached. An additional round is required. There are now 990 valid votes.



**Round three:** The candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated. Ballots from the eliminated candidate are reallocated in the same way. This continues until a candidate has more than 50%.

In this example, Candidate A is eliminated as received the fewest votes (290).

The redistribution of the second or third preferences of those 290 voters are as follows: To Candidate B – 90, to Candidate D - 145. There were 55 ballots this round with no remaining next preference candidate and are exhausted.

A majority is reached with 475 votes for Candidate D. There were 935 valid votes (majority=469 votes)

**Result:** Candidate D is elected. In this example, the second preferred candidate in Rounds 1 was the eventual winner in Round 3.

CANDIDATE NAME	
Political Party • Parti Politique	
ELIMINATED	2
ELIMINATED	1
CANDIDATE NAME	
Independent • Indépendant	3

