



YOUR GUIDE TO
**THE 2025
PLEBISCITE VOTE**

GET READY TO VOTE!

Voter Eligibility

To vote in the territorial election, you must be an eligible voter in the Yukon:

18+

Be at least 18 years of age as of the polling day.





Be a Canadian citizen.



Have been a Yukon resident for at least 12 months as of polling day.

Sample Ballot

 Elections Act Loi sur les élections	 Plebiscite Act Loi sur les plébiscites
Electoral District of Circonscription Electorale de MARSH LAKE - MOUNT LORNE - GOLDEN HORN November 3, 2025 le 3 novembre 2025 xxx. Returning Officer Directeur du scrutin Initials / Initiales Printed by / Imprimé par Integraphics Ltd. Whitehorse, Yukon	PLEBISCITE BALLOT BULLETIN DE VOTE POUR LE PLÉBISCITE MARSH LAKE - MOUNT LORNE - GOLDEN HORN November 3, 2025 le 3 novembre 2025 xxx. Returning Officer Directeur du scrutin Initials / Initiales Printed by / Imprimé par Integraphics Ltd. Whitehorse, Yukon
<p>Choose one candidate. / Choisissez une(e) candidat(e).</p> <p>FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique</p> <p>FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique</p> <p>FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique</p> <p>FIRST LAST Independent • Indépendant</p>	<p>Choose only one option. / Choisissez une seule option.</p> <p>Should the way members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly are elected be changed from the current system of first past the post to a different system of ranked vote?</p> <p>YES / OUI</p> <p>NO / NON</p> <p>Devrait-on changer le mode d'élection des membres de l'Assemblée législative du Yukon, qui est actuellement le mode de scrutin uninominal majoritaire à un tour, pour adopter un mode de scrutin préférentiel ?</p>



Learn More About the 2025 Plebiscite Vote:

- ▶ Scan the QR code
- ▶ Or visit electionsyukon.ca/plebiscite



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The 2025 Plebiscite Vote

The territorial general election is underway! With it, for the first time in over 100 years, Yukoners will also vote in a territorial plebiscite on electoral reform.

What is a plebiscite?

- A plebiscite is a vote to seek the opinion of voters on a matter of public concern.



The Ballot

When Yukon voters go to the polls, they will receive two ballots:

To vote for their Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) – vote for one candidate only; and

To vote on the plebiscite question about the voting system used by Yukoners to elect MLAs – vote either for YES or NO

Choose one candidate. / *Choisissez un(e) candidat(e).*

FIRST LAST Political Party • <i>Parti politique</i>	<input type="radio"/>
FIRST LAST Political Party • <i>Parti politique</i>	<input type="radio"/>
FIRST LAST Political Party • <i>Parti politique</i>	<input type="radio"/>
FIRST LAST Independent • <i>Indépendant</i>	<input type="radio"/>

Choose only one option. / *Choisissez une seule option.*

Should the way members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly are elected be changed from the current system of first past the post to a different system of ranked vote?

☐ YES / OUI

☐ NO / NON

Devrait-on changer le mode d'élection des membres de l'Assemblée législative du Yukon, qui est actuellement le mode de scrutin uninominal majoritaire à un tour, pour adopter un mode de scrutin préférentiel ?

What is a voting system?

- Voting systems are the methods used to choose political representatives. They are governed by a series of laws and rules which determine the way which votes cast in an election are translated into seats in the legislature. There are hundreds of voting systems currently in use around the world.



The two Voting Systems on the Plebiscite Ballot



First Past the Post System

First past the post is the current system used in the Yukon where the winner is the candidate with the most votes (a plurality).



Ranked Vote System

A ranked voted is a system recommended by the Citizen's Assembly where the winner must receive at least 50% plus 1 of the votes counted (a majority).

The Plebiscite Question

Should the way Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly are elected be changed from the current system of first past the post to a different system of ranked vote?

The Vote Options:

YES

Vote Yes to change to a ranked vote system. To win, a candidate needs to receive a majority of the votes counted (at least 50% plus 1).

NO

Vote No to keep the current first past the post system. To win, a candidate needs to receive the most votes.

Plebiscite Threshold

The Yukon government set a threshold of over 50% of the valid votes cast in favour of a particular option to be considered the expression of public opinion.

The plebiscite is non-binding which means the government does not have to make a change based on the plebiscite results. The results will still be important in guiding government decisions.



Why Voting Systems Matter

- ▶ Different voting systems may produce different results in electing candidates and governments. The considerations of a voter in marking their ballots may be different between the two systems.

First Past the Post

First past the post systems are based on one vote. A voter selects one candidate and marks the ballot for that candidate. The candidate with a plurality of votes is elected.



Where Used

Widely used system in Canada, United Kingdom, India, and the US.



How Votes are Counted

Votes for each candidate are counted from all district polls and tallied to determine which candidate has the most votes.

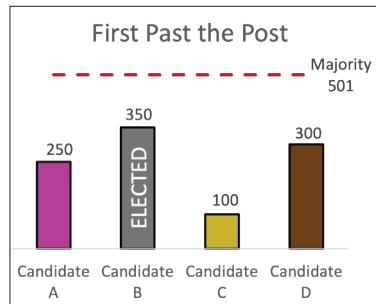


How the Winner is Determined

The candidate with the most votes wins.

A Sample Count:

Candidate	Votes
Candidate A	250
Candidate B	350
Candidate C	100
Candidate D	300
Total Votes	1000



Result:

- ▶ Candidate B is declared the winner as having the most votes.
- ▶ In this example, the winning candidate received 350 votes of the total votes cast (35%).
- ▶ There were 650 votes for other candidates.

Ranked Vote

Ranked vote systems are based on a ranking by preference of candidates. A voter ranks, in order of preference, as many or as few candidates as they want. The candidate with a majority of votes is elected.

Choose one candidate. / Choisissez un(e) candidat(e).

FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique	1
FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique	2
FIRST LAST Political Party • Parti politique	1
FIRST LAST Independent • Indépendant	3



Where Used

Established system in Australia, used in some US states, and some Canadian cities.



How Votes are Counted

First preference votes for all district polls are counted. If a majority is not reached, an additional round of counting is required.

The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. The next preference of those voters of the eliminated candidate is redistributed to their next preference of available candidates.

This continues until a candidate has a majority of votes counted.



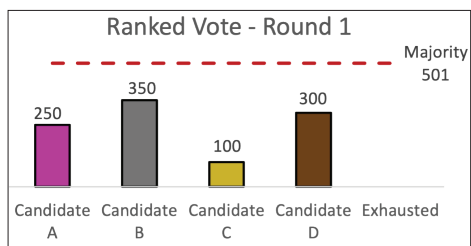
How the Winner is Determined

The candidate with a majority of votes counted (at least 50% plus 1) wins. A majority is required.

A Sample Count:

Round 1

Candidate	Votes
Candidate A	250
Candidate B	350
Candidate C	100
Candidate D	300
Total Votes	1000



No majority is reached. A second round is required.

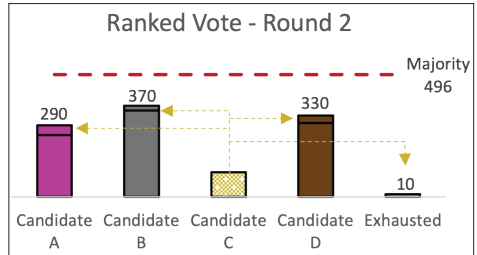
When there are no next preferences for voters of an eliminated candidate, or no remaining candidates for next preferences, there are no votes to be redistributed. Those votes are “exhausted” and removed from the count.

Round 2

The candidate with the fewest number of votes, Candidate C, is eliminated. The next preference of those 100 voters is redistributed to the remaining candidates.

In this example, the redistribution of the second preferences of those voters are as follows:

- ▶ Candidate A: 40 votes
- ▶ Candidate B: 20 votes
- ▶ Candidate D: 30 votes



There were 10 ballots with no second preference marked. These ballots are “exhausted” and not included in further counts. There are now 990 valid ballots. A majority requirement is now 496 votes.

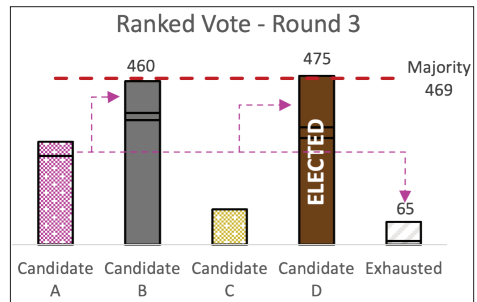
No majority is reached. A third round is required.

Round 3

The candidate with the fewest number of votes, Candidate A, is eliminated. The next preference of those 290 voters is redistributed to their next preference of the remaining candidates.

In this example, the redistribution of the second and third preference of those voters are as follows:









- ▶ Candidate B: 90 votes
- ▶ Candidate D: 145 votes



There are an additional 55 exhausted votes this round (for a total of 65 exhausted votes). A majority requirement is now 469 votes.

A majority is reached. Candidate D is elected. In this example, the second preferred candidate in Round 1 was the eventual winner in Round 3.

Common Features: First Past the Post & Ranked Vote Systems

Feature	First Past the Post	Ranked Vote
Use the same electoral districts and boundaries.		
Based on direct local representation with one member of the Legislative Assembly for each district.		
Tend to produce single party governments and are just as likely to form a majority or minority government.		
A form of proportional representation.		

Compare Features: First Past the Post & Ranked Vote Systems

Feature	First Past the Post	Ranked Vote
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vote for one candidate. ▶ The candidate who receives the most votes (a plurality) is the winner. ▶ Widely used system that is simple, easy to understand, and ballots can be counted quickly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Candidates are ranked by preference. Next preferences of voters are used if their candidate is eliminated. ▶ Winning candidates require majority support of at least 50% + 1 of the votes counted. ▶ Established system where winning candidates have broader voter support by requiring they receive a majority of votes.
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Familiar system. Relatively low cost. ▶ Can be hand counted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ New system to the Yukon. Initial costs to establish system and introduce to public. Some incremental costs and technology in ongoing election administration. ▶ Counts and recounts will take longer.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vote NO to keep the current first past the post system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vote YES to change to a different system of ranked vote.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we holding a plebiscite vote?

Between 2021 and 2023, special committees of the Legislative Assembly recommended that a Citizens' Assembly be established to look at voting systems.

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, composed of representatives from every electoral district, looked at different voting systems. Their mandate was to recommend if the current first past the post system should be kept, and if not, to recommend one system to replace it. Ranked vote was their recommended system.

The government directed a public vote be held for Yukoners to express their opinion on electoral reform as part of this territorial general election.

What can I expect when I go to vote?

The plebiscite vote is part of the territorial general election. Electors will receive two ballots. Registration, voting times, places, and options for the plebiscite vote will be the same as the territorial vote.

The plebiscite ballots will be a different colour and design than the election ballots, so they are easy to tell apart. The ballots will be folded separately and put in the same ballot box. They will be counted separately.

Why is ranked voting the only alternative being considered?

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was tasked by the Yukon Legislative Assembly with examining and discussing different ways of electing our territorial government, and making a recommendation to either keep our current voting system or adopt a different one.

The Citizens' Assembly considered the different voting systems. Their report recommended that an alternative system, a ranked vote system, be adopted.

The plebiscite question is based on the work of the Citizens' Assembly and the regulations which govern the conduct of the vote.

Frequently Asked Questions

What other places in Canada have had votes on election reform?

Over the past 20 years, a number of Canadian jurisdictions have had plebiscites or referendums on electoral reform related to changing voting systems. They include:

British Columbia: Referendums in 2005, 2009, and 2018

Prince Edward Island: Plebiscites in 2005 and 2016, and a referendum in 2019.

Ontario: Referendum in 2007.

No referendum or plebiscite to change voting systems has been successful to date, either because thresholds were not met, turnout was considered too low, or the majority voted against the question.

Where can I get information about the plebiscite?

Voters are encouraged to seek out balanced and accurate information prior to making their plebiscite vote decision.

Elections Yukon provides impartial information on the electionsyukon.ca website and in various materials distributed through the election period and at the polling places.

Additional information, and perspective, is available from academic sources, democracy organizations, advocacy groups, and political parties and candidates.



Make Elections Yukon your trusted source for information about the territorial election and the plebiscite.

You are invited to check our website frequently for the latest information about the territorial election and plebiscite vote.



Learn More About the 2025 Plebiscite Vote:

- ▶ Scan the QR code
- ▶ Or visit electionsyukon.ca/plebiscite



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