

D1: Voting Methods

Class Prep Assignment

Due at the beginning of next class

Personal Reflection: Do you think the U.S. presidential election system is fair? Explain why or why not.

Voting Methods

Ranked Choice Voting and the Preference Schedule

Example 1. Students are voting for their class president and the candidates are Omar (O), Ann (A), and Helen (H). They have ranked the candidates according to their preference.

	Vien	Ann	Marv	Tasha	Eve	Omar	Lupe	Dave	Helena	Jimmy
1 st choice	A	A	O	H	A	O	H	O	H	A
2 nd choice	O	H	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	H
3 rd choice	H	O	A	O	O	A	O	A	O	O

Make a **Preference Schedule:**

1 st choice				
2 nd choice				
3 rd choice				

Plurality Method (only first choice counts)

	1	3	3	3
1 st choice	A	A	O	H
2 nd choice	O	H	H	A
3 rd choice	H	O	A	O

Example 2. Five candidates are running for office and labeled A, B, C, D and E for simplicity. Which candidate wins under each method?

Plurality Method

	3	4	4	6	2	1
1 st choice	B	C	B	D	B	E
2 nd choice	C	A	D	C	E	A
3 rd choice	A	D	C	A	A	D
4 th choice	D	B	A	E	C	B
5 th choice	E	E	E	B	D	C

How many people voted?

How many votes are needed for a majority win?

How many votes are needed for a plurality win?

Instant Runoff Method (Sometimes Called Sequential Runoff or Single Transferrable Vote)

	3	4	4	6	2	1
1 st choice	B	C	B	D	B	E
2 nd choice	C	A	D	C	E	A
3 rd choice	A	D	C	A	A	D
4 th choice	D	B	A	E	C	B
5 th choice	E	E	E	B	D	C

Point System (Borda Count)

	3	4	4	6	2	1
1 st choice	B	C	B	D	B	E
2 nd choice	C	A	D	C	E	A
3 rd choice	A	D	C	A	A	D
4 th choice	D	B	A	E	C	B
5 th choice	E	E	E	B	D	C

Condorcet Method (Pairwise Comparisons)

	3	4	4	6	2	1
1 st choice	B	C	B	D	B	E
2 nd choice	C	A	D	C	E	A
3 rd choice	A	D	C	A	A	D
4 th choice	D	B	A	E	C	B
5 th choice	E	E	E	B	D	C