

Single transferable vote

Single transferable vote (STV), also called Hare system, multimember district proportional representation method of election in which a voter ranks candidates in order of preference. Although several members are elected together, every voter must have only a single vote so that each vote has the same effect and to ensure proportional representation. As candidates pass a specified electoral quota, they are elected and their surplus votes apportioned to the remaining candidates, until all the open seats are filled. In this way the results reflect fairly accurately the preferences of the electors and, therefore, their support for both individuals and parties. The Australian Senate, Malta, the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland all use the Single Transferable Vote electoral system.

Advantages of STV- As a mechanism for choosing representatives, the Single Transferable Vote (STV) is perhaps the most sophisticated of all electoral systems, allowing for choice between parties and between candidates within parties. The final results also retain a fair degree of proportionality, and the fact that in most actual examples of STV the multi-member districts are relatively small means that an important geographical link between voter and representative is retained.

Furthermore, voters can influence the composition of post-election coalitions, as has been the case in Ireland, and the system provides incentives for inter-party accommodation through the reciprocal exchange of preferences. STV also provides a better chance for the election of popular independent candidates than List PR, because voters are choosing between candidates, rather than between parties (although a party-list option can be added to an STV election; this is done for the Australian Senate).

Disadvantages of STV- The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is often criticized on the grounds that preference voting is unfamiliar in many societies, and demands, at the very least, a degree of literacy and numeracy. The intricacies of an STV count are themselves quite complex, which is also seen as being a drawback.

STV also carries the disadvantages of all parliaments elected by PR methods, such as under certain circumstances increasing the power of small minority parties. Moreover, at times the

system, unlike straight List PR, can provide pressures for political parties to fragment internally, because at election-time members of the same party are effectively competing against each other, as well as against the opposition, for votes.

(For MCQ)

1. Ireland- For both lower and upper house
2. In India (Used Indirectly) for electing:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Members of Rajya Sabha
 - Members of state legislative council
3. Nepal – Used indirectly for electing the members of the upper house
4. Pakistan- Senate