

LWVPA ELECTION LAW REVIEW AND UPDATE STUDY

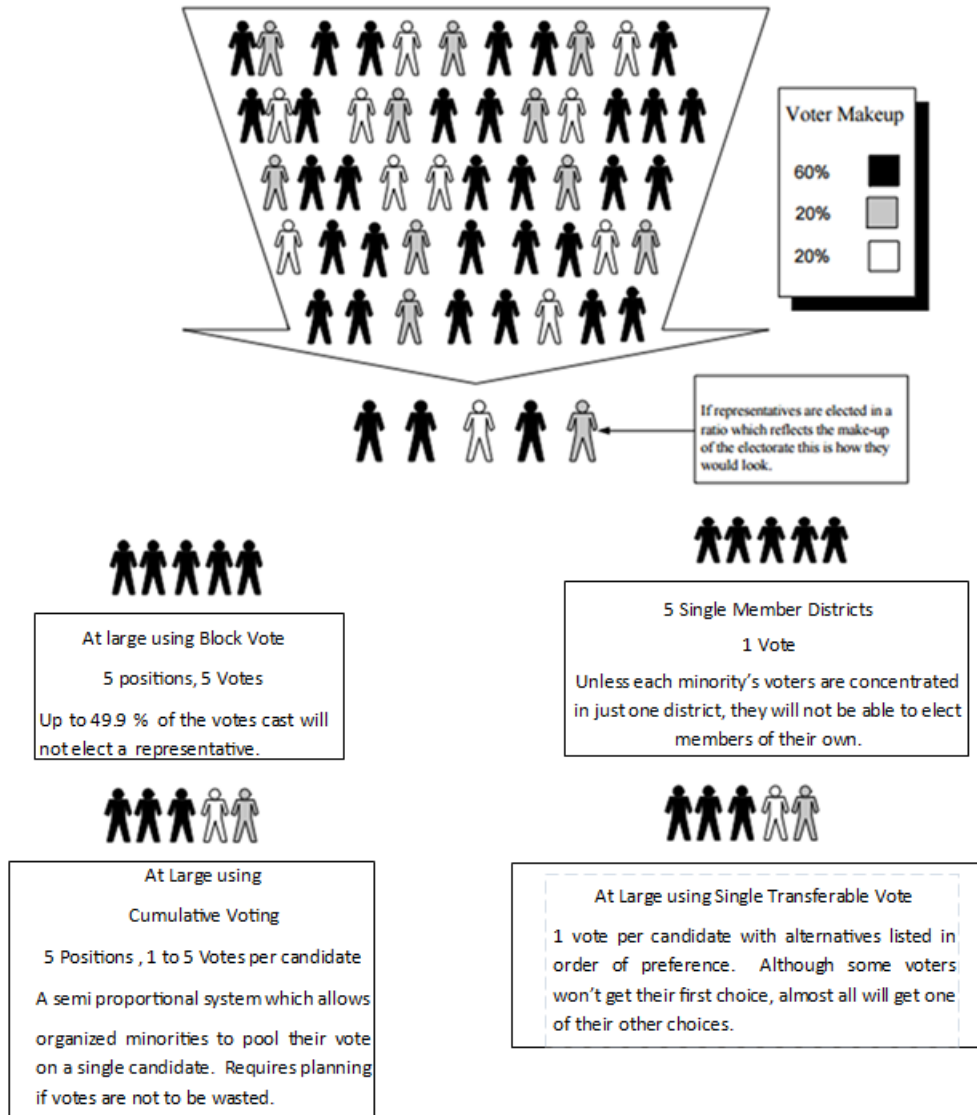
Appendix I

A comparison of election results using winner-take-all systems with selected alternative elections systems.

Results using alternative election systems are more representative of the voter make up.

Election Results Differ

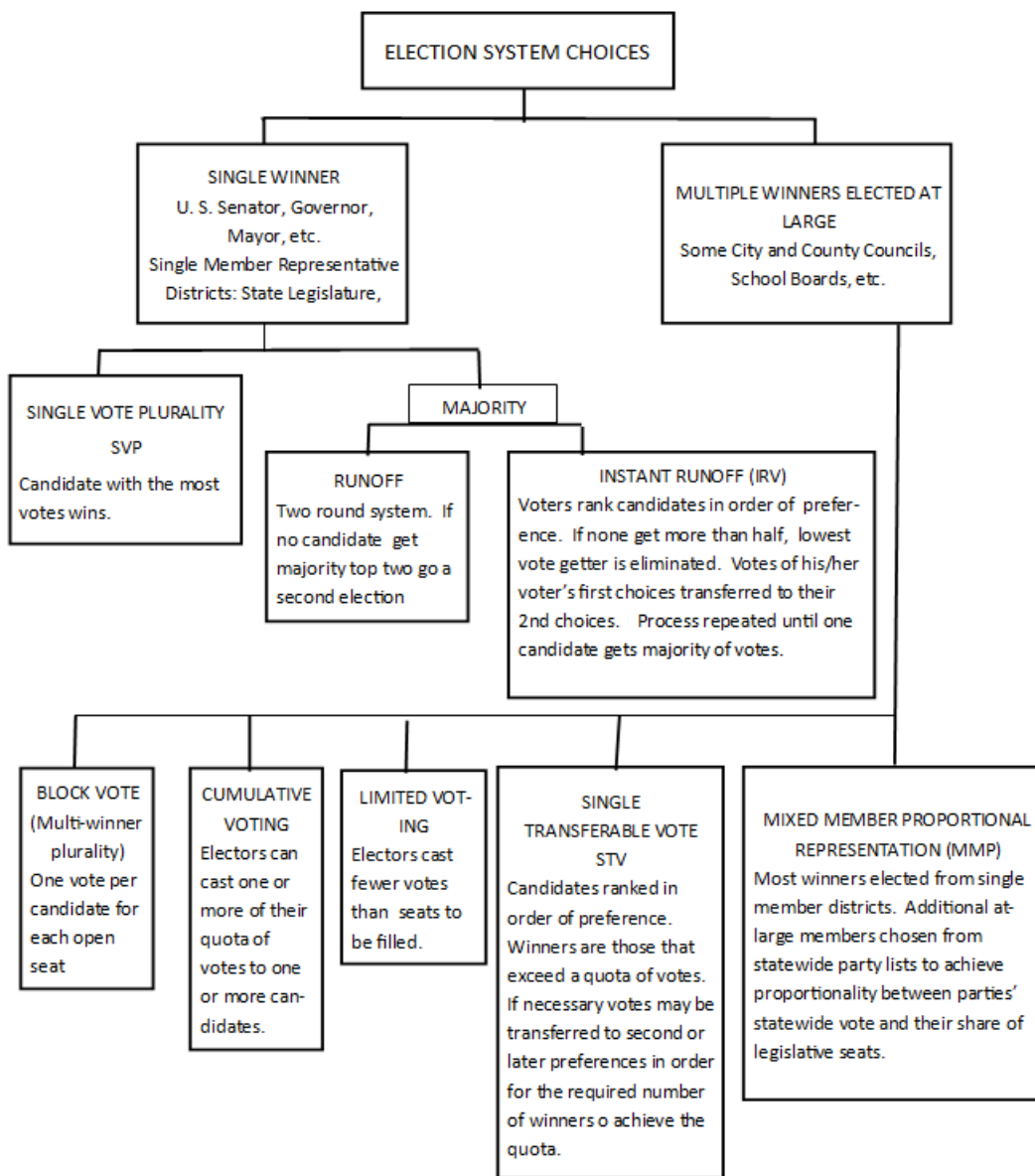
Depending on the Election Method Chosen



Adapted from: [An Evaluation of Major Election Methods and Selected Election Laws, Fall 2000 by the League of Women Voters of Washington State..](#)

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Appendix II



Appendix III

Example of Single Transferable Vote

The chart below shows the results of a partisan race using single transferable vote. Six candidates are running for three seats in a hypothetical district with 1,000 voters. Candidates Perez, Chan, and Jackson are Democrats, while candidates Lorenzo, Murphy, and Smith are Republicans. The district is majority Democratic; the Democratic candidates collectively earn 60 percent of first choices. However, a substantial number of voters prefer the Republicans.

In this simulation, Jackson is the most mainstream Democratic candidate, while Perez and Chan have support among Democrats, Independents, and even some Republicans. Similarly,

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Murphy and Smith are both mainstream Republicans, while Lorenzo has support among Republicans, Independents, and some Democrats.

With 1,000 voters, the election threshold is 250 votes (25 percent of 1,000).

A count of first choices elects the most popular Democratic candidate, Perez. Perez has 20 more votes than the threshold. Therefore, every voter who ranked Perez highest will have eight percent of their vote (20 divided by 250) count for their next choice. That is, these 20 votes will add to the total of other candidates in the next round. More than half of Perez voters ranked Chan second, with a smaller number ranking Jackson or one of the Republicans next.

Rounds two through four resolve vote splitting among the three Republicans and the two remaining Democrats. Round two eliminates the weakest Republican candidate, while Round 3 eliminates the weakest Democrat. When the one remaining Democrat passes the election threshold, most of her surplus goes to Lorenzo, who comfortably wins the third seat. Note that the final round three, leaves 45 unallocated ballots, because some of Chan's voters were indifferent to the two remaining Republican candidates and did not rank either of them.

The winners are Perez (D), Chan (D), and Lorenzo (R). If this were a single winner election, the most mainstream Democrat (Perez) easily would have won, leaving all others unrepresented. Instead, coalition building among the district's remaining center-left and center-right populations results in the election of two additional candidates. In the end, 96 percent of voters can point to a candidate whom they supported and helped elect.

If the election used bloc voting to fill these three seats, each voter would cast three votes for the three candidates they support. The most likely result would be a Democrat sweep of all three seats, because each Democratic voter could vote for all three Democratic candidates. In fact, even if the election used [the single vote system](#) (a weaker form of fair representation voting) to fill the three seats, Democrats still would have swept all three seats due to the split of the Republican vote among three candidates.

If the process to fill the three seats divided the district into three single-winner districts, the outcome would depend on how the district lines were drawn: to elect two Democrats and one Republican or to over-represent either party. Regardless, the district elections would probably not be competitive, and each district's primary election would likely weed out the candidates who won by coalition building.

By using ranked choice voting to elect three candidates for the seats, the election results fairly represent the district's diversity after a competitive election, without any opportunity for partisan gerrymandering.