

III. Alternative Election Systems Study Guide Consensus Questions

There are three sets of questions: General, Single-winner, and Multiple-winner Elections.

General

1. It is important to use the simplest possible method of voting.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

2. It is important that voters understand how votes are tabulated.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

3. It is important to avoid a complex tabulation process in choosing a voting system.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

4. It is important for a voting process to help preserve the predominance of two major parties.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

5. An ideal voting system would encourage civility in election campaigns.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

Single-winner Elections

6. When three or more people seek election to a single-seat office like governor, the current system allows the election of one of them with less than 50 percent of the vote (a plurality rather than a majority). Lack of majority support reduces the perceived legitimacy of a plurality winner.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

7. In multiple-candidate races, candidates who do not themselves win can be spoilers in that votes cast for them change who does win. An ideal electoral system would reduce the likelihood that a candidate who does not win could change the outcome.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

8. LWVPA should support an electoral system that encourages electors to vote for their true favorite (sincere voting) rather than for someone whom they believe has a better chance of defeating the candidate that they like least (strategic voting)

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

9. LWVPA should support an electoral system that guarantees that the winner will receive a majority (not just a plurality) of votes

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

10. LWVPA should support an electoral system that guarantees the choice of a winner after just one round of voting, rather than allow the possibility of a second, runoff election on a future date.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

11. A two-round system (i.e., a runoff, on a future date) would encourage more civility in campaigns than the present system.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

12. An Instant runoff electoral system would encourage more civility in campaigns than the present system

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

13. LWVPA should support a two-round runoff system for elections in which three or more candidates are seeking a single office.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

14. LWVPA should support an instant-runoff (in which voters rank their preferences) for elections in which three or more candidates are seeking a single office.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

15. LWVPA should support a *Borda count* as an alternative for elections in which three or more candidates are seeking a single office. (See p. 4, above)

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

16. LWVPA should support *approval voting* as an alternative for elections in which three or more candidates are seeking a single office. (See p. 5, above)

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

17. LWVPA should support *range voting* as an alternative for elections in which three or more candidates are seeking a single office. (See p. 5, above)

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

Legislatures and Other Multiple Winner Elections

18. In a legislature or council elected on a partisan basis, a fair electoral system would allow the party with a majority of votes across the whole system to win a majority of seats

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

19. An ideal election system would level the playing field for women or other demographic groups that have consistently been under-represented.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

20. Minority parties that receive a significant share of votes should win a corresponding share of seats.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

21. An electoral system should reduce the possibility of and/or payoff for deliberate gerrymandering of district lines.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

22. It is important for an electoral system to encourage competition in all legislative districts?

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

23. It is important for an electoral system to avoid making candidates from the same party compete against each other in the general election as much as (or even more than) they compete against candidates from other parties. (See p. 13, above)

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___

24. Which of the following alternatives to the existing single-member district plurality system should the League support for elections to the Pennsylvania General Assembly? You may select more than one if you wish.

Limited voting (p. 13)

Cumulative Voting (p. 13)

Single Transferable Vote (p. 11)

Mixed-Member Proportional (p. 9)

No Change

25. Which of the following alternatives to current systems should the League support for elections to local bodies, such as county commissioners or municipal councils? You may select more than one if you wish.

Limited voting (p. 13)

Cumulative Voting (p. 13)

Single Transferable Vote (p. 11)

Mixed-Member Proportional (p. 9)

No Change

26. The League should support the right of local governments, including school boards, to choose a League-supported alternative election system for their own elections.

1. Strongly disagree___ 2. Disagree___ 3. Neutral/no consensus___ 4. Agree ___ 5. Strongly agree___