

# VOTING FOR YOUR COUNCIL

For the next local elections, there is a choice of voting systems:

**FPP** – First Past the Post

**or**

**STV** – Single Transferable Vote

## YOU CAN HAVE A SAY ON WHICH SYSTEM YOUR COUNCIL CHOOSES!

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STV is a new voting system option for local elections in New Zealand.

STV is short for Single Transferable Vote and you'll be having your first experience of how it works in 2004.

That's when the next local elections take place and STV will be used to elect all District Health Boards throughout the country.

It may also be used by your Council, instead of the current FPP system. If we chooses to do so, we've got to let you know by September this year.

Before then, let your Council know which of the two systems you'd prefer for the future.

Whether or not your Council chooses STV in September you could influence the decision by voting in a poll. Polls can be held if –

- The Council decides to hold a poll; or
- If 5% of people on the electoral roll request a poll.

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### Do we keep FPP or switch to STV?

With FPP all you have to do is put a tick beside the names of the candidates you want to see elected.

With STV, instead of putting a tick beside your chosen candidates' names, you rank your chosen candidates' names in order of preference by using numbers. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you wish.

Ticks? Numbers? Does it make a difference? Yes it does, when it comes to deciding who gets elected and who doesn't! It's all about electing the people you think will best represent the community on the council.

### Under FPP...

...you can vote for as many candidates as you want, up to the number of vacancies to be filled (eg 3 vacancies = 3 votes).

Each tick counts as one vote, and the candidates with the most votes are elected.

<b>HYPOTHETICAL CITY COUNCIL DOWNTOWN WARD ELECTION OF THREE (3) COUNCILLORS</b>	
You can vote for a maximum of three (3) candidates	
<b>BROWN, Sandy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>JONES, Sam</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>OWENS, Harry</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SMITH, Ngaire</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>WATSON, Alice</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Candidates may receive more votes than they need to get elected.

The FPP system is simple to understand, clearly shows candidates' level of support and is widely used throughout the world.

But how well does it reflect the range of opinions and views of voters across the whole electorate?

### **Under STV...**

... you only have one vote, even if there is more than one vacancy to be filled.

<b>HYPOTHETICAL CITY COUNCIL DOWNTOWN WARD ELECTION OF THREE (3) COUNCILLORS</b>	
Rank candidates in order of preference ... '1' '2' '3' etc	
<b>BROWN, Sandy</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>JONES, Sam</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OWENS, Harry</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SMITH, Ngaire</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WATSON, Alice</b>	<b>4</b>

Instead of a tick you rank candidates in the order you prefer – “1” beside your first choice, 2” beside your second choice, “3” beside your third choice and so on. You can rank as few or as many candidates as you wish.

Here's how STV works. Candidates must reach a set number (quota) of votes in order to be elected. By numbering your preferences you are saying: "The candidate I most want to represent me on the council is Sam Jones. He's my number one choice - but if he gets more votes than the quota, then part of my vote is to be transferred to my second choice, Ngaire Smith, and maybe this will help to get her elected. On the other hand, if Sam has so little support that he can't possibly be elected, transfer my vote to Ngaire..."

Under the STV system, the first candidates to reach the quota are elected. This may require several counts and redistributions of votes before all vacancies are filled.

Although STV takes a little more thought ...

... more votes have a direct influence on the result of the election

... it potentially allows a greater diversity of interests and opinion to be represented on the Council

... supporters of STV consider it reflects voters wishes better than FPP

Single Transferable Vote? It's not hard to understand, when you think it through. Single means "one". Transferable means "can be passed on to other candidates". As for vote, well, you know what that means.

So there you have it... a vote that can be passed on to others to help get them elected.

While STV is unfamiliar to most New Zealanders, it's a system that's used in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Malta and parts of Australia and the USA.

For more information look up **[www.stv.govt.nz](http://www.stv.govt.nz)**