

Part 5 Voting procedures

1 Procedure

- 1.1 At contested elections to positions inside the party as well as at preselection for public offices, the method of optional preferential voting is used.
- 1.2 The quota is worked out by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of vacancies, and then adding one to the result (ignoring any remainder).

2 Surplus votes

Candidates who receive a quota, or more, of first preference votes are immediately elected. The surplus votes of candidates who receive more than the quota are transferred to second choice candidates. Because it is not possible to determine which votes actually elected the candidate and which votes are surplus, all the elected candidates' ballot papers are transferred at a reduced value.

3 Transfer value

- 3.1 The transfer value of the elected candidate's ballot papers is worked out by dividing the number of surplus votes by the total number of the elected candidate's ballot papers.
- 3.2 The transferred votes are then added to the number of first preference votes. As a result of this process of transferring surplus votes, other candidates may be elected. If however, all surplus votes from elected candidates are transferred and there are still some unfilled positions, further counting is undertaken.

4 Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates

- 4.1 Starting with the lowest scoring candidate, unelected candidates are excluded from the count and their ballot papers are distributed to the remaining candidates to whom the voters have given their preferences.
- 4.2 When a candidate gains a quota following the distribution, the candidate is elected.
- 4.3 This process continues until all positions are filled.
- 4.4 In certain circumstances, 2 or more candidates may be excluded simultaneously. This is called a bulk exclusion.

Note When a single position is to be filled, there should always be the option "seek further nominations".