

Counting Procedure Used In Elections Conducted Under The Auspices Of The Student Consultative Forum

- 1 The ballot papers are taken from the ballot box and separated into piles for each candidate. (Ballot papers on which it is not possible to determine the first choice of the voters are discarded as Invalid).
- 2 The total first preference votes for each candidate are counted and the numbers noted on the top paper.
- 3 The total valid poll (TVP) is calculated by summing up the votes for each candidate.
- 4 The quota is calculated as:
$$\text{Quota} = (\text{TVP}/(\text{N} + 1) + 1$$
where N is the number of seats in the constituency.

The number obtained from the formula is rounded down to the nearest whole number if there is a fractional part in the number.

- 5 If there is any candidate whose total first preference vote equals or exceeds the quota, that person is declared as Elected and the surplus arising is distributed as follows:
 - (a) The numerical value of the Surplus is the difference between the total votes of the elected candidate and the quota.
 - (b) All the ballot papers of the elected candidate are placed in Bundles allocated to each of the remaining non-elected candidates on the basis of the next lowest preference on the ballot papers. These Bundles are counted. (Ballot papers on which there is no indication of a preference for any remaining candidates are deemed to be Non-Transferable and placed with the invalid votes).
 - (c) A fraction is determined for each remaining candidate which is equal to the number in the transferred bundle divided by the total number of transferred votes.
 - (d) The number of votes to be transferred to each candidate is calculated as the product of the Fraction multiplied by the Surplus. If the numbers obtained by this calculation are fractional the transfer proceeds as follows:
 - (i) The candidate whose Fraction is greatest is dealt with first. The number of votes to be transferred to that candidate is obtained by rounding up the number calculated if the fractional part of the number calculated is equal to or greater than 0.5. Where the fractional part of the number calculated is less than 0.5 the number is rounded down.
 - (ii) If the total number of votes already transferred is less than the Surplus, the candidate with the next highest Fraction is dealt with in the same way.
 - (iii) The process continues until the number of votes transferred equals the Surplus.

- (iv) In transferring votes to a remaining candidate, ballot papers equal in number to the votes to be transferred are taken from the top of the Bundles for that candidate and placed on top of the original Pile of votes for that candidate. These transferred votes are then treated as if they were first preference votes for that candidate in any subsequent operation. The new total number is noted on the top of the Pile for each candidate and the next count is declared. Any ballot papers remaining in the Bundle are placed with the Invalid and Non-Transferable votes.

- 6 If there is a candidate whose total votes exceeds the quota following any transfer of votes, that candidate is declared Elected and the votes of that candidate are treated as detailed in 5 above.
- 7 If more than one candidate exceeds the quota on the first or any subsequent count, each such candidate is declared Elected. The surplus votes of the candidate with the greatest number of votes in excess of the quota are distributed first; the surpluses of the remaining elected candidate are then distributed in the order of the number of their excess votes. If two or more Elected candidates have an equal number of votes, the order of distribution of their surplus shall be decided by the number of their first preference votes and, in the event of an equality of first preference votes, shall be decided by lot.
- 8 If no candidate has reached the quota on the first or any subsequent count. The votes of the remaining candidate with the lowest number of votes are distributed and the candidate is declared to be eliminated. If two or more such candidates have an equal number of votes, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is eliminated first. If there is equality in the number of first preference votes for such candidates, the one to be eliminated is decided by lot.
- 9 Each ballot paper of an eliminated candidate, including any transferred ballot papers, is distributed to the remaining candidates on the basis of the next lowest preference on that ballot paper, by transferring the ballot papers of such candidate to the Piles of the remaining candidate. These transferred votes are then treated as if they were first preference votes for that candidate in any subsequent operation. The new total number is noted on the top of the Pile for each candidate and the next count is declared. Any ballot paper on which there is no preference expressed for a remaining candidate is placed with the Non-Transferable votes.
- 10 Counting continues until all the seats have been filled. If on any count the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of seats to be filled, the candidates are declared to be elected even if they have not reached the quota.