

Attachment A: Comparison of FPP and STV Electoral Systems

FPP: casting votes - FPP is a straightforward system of voting. - FPP is familiar to most people. 'Tactical' voting is possible; votes can be used with a view to preventing a candidate from winning in certain circumstances. FPP: counting votes - FPP is a straightforward system for counting votes. - Votes can be counted in different locations and then aggregated. - Election results are usually announced soon after voting ends. FPP: election results - Official results show exactly how many people voted for which candidates. - Results are easy to understand. - A 'block' of like-minded voters can determine the election of multiple candidates in multi-member wards/constituencies, without having a majority of the votes, thereby 'over-representing' themselves. - The overall election results will not be proportional to voters' wishes and will not reflect the electoral wishes of the majority of voters, only the largest group of voters who may not be the majority. - In single-member elections, the winner is unlikely to have the majority of votes, just the largest group of votes. - There will be more 'wasted' votes (votes that do not contribute to the election of a candidate).	STV: casting votes - STV is a less straightforward system of voting. - STV is familiar to voters in the district since ORC used it in the last election.¹ - It is virtually impossible to cast a 'tactical' vote under STV. As a result, voters are encouraged to express their true preferences. STV: counting votes - STV vote counting requires a computer program (the STV calculator). - Votes must be aggregated first and then counted in one location. - Election results will usually take a little longer to produce. STV: election results - Official results will identify which candidates have been elected and which have not and in which order. - They do not show how many votes candidates got overall, as all successful candidates will have the same proportion of the vote (the quota). This information, at stages of the count, can still be requested. - Results can be easy to understand if presented appropriately. - STV moderates 'block' voting as each voter casts only one single vote, even in multi-member wards/constituencies. - The overall election results reflect the wishes of the majority of voters in proportion to their support for a variety of candidates. - In single-member wards/constituencies, the winner will have the majority of votes (preferences). - Every vote is as effective as possible (depending on the number of preferences indicated) meaning there are fewer 'wasted votes' and more votes will contribute to the election of a candidate than under FPP.
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Note: This analysis was produced by the 2021 Representation Review Advisory Group and is still applicable at this time (although see the below footnote for one update to the original analysis).

¹ The original analysis, from 2020, indicated that ORC was unfamiliar to voters. This bullet has been updated to reflect the fact that Otago Regional Council (ORC) adopted STV in 2023 and used it in the last (2025) election.