




# Single Transferable Voting

## Fact Sheet

Elections 2022 |

2	CANDIDATE, Name		101
3	CANDIDATE, Name		102
1	CANDIDATE, Name		103

Council has adopted Single Transferable Voting for at least the next two elections. If you have voted before in local body elections, it was the voting system used to elect District Health Board members.

It is commonly referred to as a proportional or preferential voting system, the results of which are more likely to reflect the preferences of a greater number of voters. Because voters' second, third, and other preferences are taken into account, the results are a more accurate indication of the total support each candidate has.

### What is a quota?

The quota is the number of votes a candidate needs to get elected. It is calculated from the total number of valid votes cast and the number of vacant positions.

In the case of single vacancy elections, such as a mayoralty or the Kaikohe-Hokianga councillor position, the quota is referred to as an absolute majority.

The quota is calculated in the following manner (illustrative example):

*In an election with three vacant positions, where there were 4,000 valid votes, the quota would be:*

$$4000 \text{ (Votes)} \div (3 \text{ (Vacancies)} + 1) = 1000$$

*In this case the quota would be 1000.*

As such, until all valid votes are received, it is not possible to predict the quota for each of the positions.

### How are votes counted under STV?

The votes are counted in stages.

All first preference votes are counted first.

To be elected, candidates must reach the quota (see previous point). When a candidate reaches the quota and is elected, a portion of the surplus votes go to their voters' second choices. If no other candidates reach the quota and there are positions still to be filled, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their votes are transferred according to voters' second choices.

These steps are repeated until all of the positions are filled. If voters didn't give any second or subsequent preferences, those votes cannot be transferred and the quota is recalculated to exclude the non-transferable votes. So it's important to rank your

preferred candidates so all your preferences are taken into account.

All of the vote counting is done by computer using specialist software. The Department of Internal Affairs developed the programme (called the STV calculator). It has been independently audited and certified, as required by law prior to the elections.

Because STV votes are counted in stages, it can mean that the results of the elections take a bit longer.

### How do I vote under STV?

In a STV election, you have one vote and rank the candidates in order of preference. You give a 1 to your favourite candidate, 2 to your second favourite and so on. You can rank as many candidates as you like – you don't need to rank them all. By ranking the candidates, parts of your vote may be shared between the candidates you support according to your preferences.

If the candidate you most want to win gets more votes than they need to be elected, because a lot of other people voted for them too, part of your vote may be transferred to your next choice.

The same thing happens if your top choice is really unpopular and doesn't get enough votes to be elected – your vote for them will be transferred to your next preference until all positions are filled.

### Where can I find out more about STV?

[www.stv.govt.nz](http://www.stv.govt.nz) contains additional resources that help explain how the votes are transferred with some good examples based on different scenarios.



## What does STV look like on a voting paper?

Here are some pictures to help illustrate how you will vote using STV.

### Voting for the mayor

Sample District Council  
ELECTING THE MAYOR

**1** STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number  in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number  next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on - , ,  etc. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to . You must write in the number 1 for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		101
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		102
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		103
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		104
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		105
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		106
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		107
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		108
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		109
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		110
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		111
	Informal		112

### Voting for community board members

Sample District Council  
Sample Community Board (Sample Subdivision)  
ELECTING 6 MEMBERS

**1** STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number  in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number  next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on - , ,  etc. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to . You must write in the number 1 for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		401
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		402
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		403
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		404
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		405
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		406
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		407
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		408
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		409
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		410
	Informal		411

### Voting for councillor (where there is more than one position)

Sample District Council  
Sample Ward  
ELECTING 2 COUNCILLORS

**1** STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number  in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number  next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on - , ,  etc. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to . You must write in the number 1 for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		201
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		202
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		203
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		204
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		205
<input type="text"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		206
	Informal		207

There is a lot of useful information regarding the 2022 elections on our website – including a video explaining the new Māori ward, a cheeky look at how STV works and lots more.

We update it regularly, so check us out at [www.fndc.govt.nz/Your-council/Local-Elections-2022](http://www.fndc.govt.nz/Your-council/Local-Elections-2022)

