



# ILGA OCEANIA

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM



### **PROPOSAL NAME: VOTING SYSTEM ADOPTION**

**Proposer:** ILGA Oceania Board

**Contact Person:** Simon Margan (NSW LGBTI+ Legal Forum)

**Document Changed:** ILGA Oceania Standing Orders

#### **A) PREAMBLE** – A brief procedural history of the proposal itself. (optional)

This current proposal was tabled at Annual General Meeting [Saturday, 24 October 2020 (Virtual)] of the last ILGA Oceania conference [Thursday, 22 October 2020 & Saturday, 24 October 2020 (Virtual)]. This proposal was passed by a vote of the membership (Proposal B - 5 votes to 4 votes), however, “the proposal was removed for tabling at the next ILGA Oceania AGM / Conference“, due to some concern from some of the dissenting delegates that the Preferential Voting System needed further discussion.

#### **A) PURPOSE** – A short summary of what the proposal intends.

This proposal mandates that a “Proportional” system of voting should be used, where applicable. This proposal also specifies, in elections held during a ILGA Oceania General meeting, exactly when a “Proportional” system of voting system should be used, as opposed to the “First Past the Post” system of voting.

#### **B) BACKGROUND** – A background of the issues surrounding the proposal itself.

Currently, the ILGA Oceania constitution does not prescribe a specific system of voting. Under the current constitution a decision would have to be continually made by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) conference floor as to which voting system to use, leading to time wasting and arguments. This proposal resolves this important question before this problem arises.

The “First Past the Post” system of voting has the advantage of being simple in limited circumstance, i.e. where there are only two ballot options. However, the “Preferential System (with a single transferable vote) [See Explanatory Videos: [VIDEO: SCOTLAND](#), [VIDEO: IRELAND](#), [VIDEO: ENGLAND](#)] has the three advantages in the following circumstances: -

- a) more than two candidate options in a ballot; or
- b) more than one position being voted upon in the same ballot.

**1) ONE VOTE** - The preferential voting system is a less laborious ‘one-election’ system of voting, whereas the current “First Past the Post” system requires two rounds of voting, which wastes valuable conference time.

**2) NO TACTICAL VOTING** – “First Past the Post” system runs the danger of tactical voting, where candidates are put up to sabotage another candidate’s chances.

**3) VOTER INTENTION** – The preferential voting system has the advantage of being the most democratic and fair approach, as is evident in the following example. The two systems of voting would give two different results, despite the candidates being the same and the voters

expressing the same voting intention, however, only the preferential voting system reflects the actual overall voters' intention.

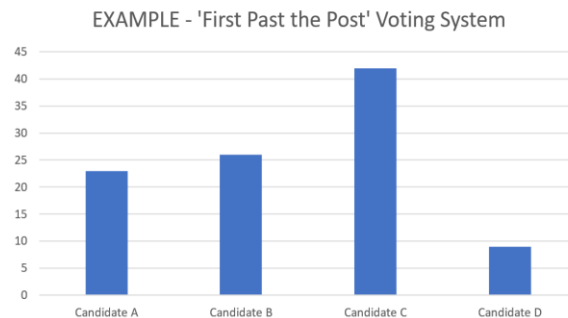
**EXAMPLE –** This shows the splitting of votes between two popular candidates, appealing to similar voters, causing the election a less popular candidate.

60% of voters want candidate A, B, or D voted in, as they have the same supporters, but none of these supporters want candidate C to be elected.

40% of voters want candidate C elected.

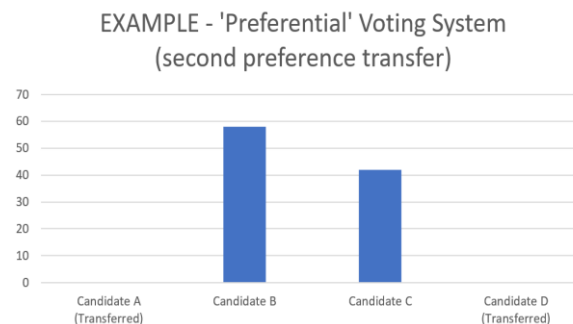
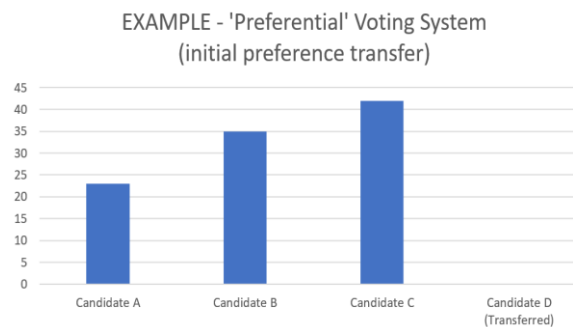
'First Past the Post' Voting System

[The winner is C, despite more candidates favouring either A, B, or D]



'Preferential' Voting System (after the reallocation of preferences).

[The winner is B, the most popular candidate in an election solely against C]



**C) CHANGES –** State the change you are desiring to make.

**Documentary changes:** **Green** for any additions.

8. Voting

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8.6. No individual may carry more than four (4) proxy votes.

**S07.3 Voting Procedures**

*The following procedures shall be used for all appointments:-*

***S07.3.1 If there is only a single candidate, i.e. only two candidate options including the “non-confidence” option, the election will be decided by a “First Past the Post” voting system, where 1***

candidate option, out of the 2 candidate options available, is chosen based on which candidate option receives the highest number of votes;

S07.3.2 If there is more than one candidate, i.e. two candidate options including the “non-confidence” option, a “Preferential” system of voting with a single transferrable vote will be used.

#### **S07.4 Preferential System (Single Transferable Vote)**

S07.4.1 Voters fill out their ballot form by consecutively numbering every candidate option, starting with a “1” for their preferred candidate, and a “2” against their next preferred candidate etc, so that all the options are numbered in the voter’s order of preference;

S07.4.2 The quota is obtained from the nearest whole number derived from the following formula: -

$$\text{Quota} = 1 + (\text{Number of Formal Votes} / (1 + \text{Available Positions}))$$

S07.4.3 A candidate who achieves quota during this process is elected;

S07.4.4 If two or more candidates are to be elected in the same ballot, the over quote candidate’s votes are scaled down to the size of their surplus over the quota, then redistributed to the other candidates based on next preference;

S07.4.5 If no candidate has reached the quota, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated and their votes are distributed according to their next preference;

S07.4.6 Step S07.4.3 and S07.4.4 are repeated until the required number of successful candidates is obtained.

#### **S07.5 Election Process Integrity**

S07.5.1 All elections are to be run on the principle that each vote has equal value.

S07.5.2 All elections are to include impartial scrutineers nominated by each candidate (a maximum of one per candidate) to monitor every stage of the vote count.

S07.5.3 Each election must have its own printed ballot paper, with instructions on the ballot paper as to what constitutes a valid vote.

S07.5.4 The returning officer should favour the interpretation of a ballot in order for the vote to be a valid formal vote, interpreting it to best reflect the voter’s apparent intention, regardless of any written requirement or policy on a vote’s validity.

S07.5.5 Each ballot paper should have a “No Confidence” option, along with an option for each of the candidates running in the election. If the number of “No Confidence” votes exceeds the total valid votes for the highest polling candidate.