

# Choice voting = voter choice

Choice voting protects majority rule while providing for the fair representation of minority views. Voters rank the candidates 1, 2, 3, and so on, in order of preference. If your top choice either is not elected or already has enough votes to win a seat, your vote would not be wasted, instead it would go to your next choice. Choice voting would help to make votes count and ensure all points of view were represented.

Choice voting can be used for single or multiple position elections. It is used for national elections in a number of countries including the Republic of Ireland and Australia. Choice voting is also used for Local Elections in Northern Ireland and Scotland. It is also used by a wide variety of organisations such as students' unions, charities, trade unions, universities, hospital trusts and housing associations. Choice voting is also called preference voting or single transferable vote (STV)



## Making Votes Count

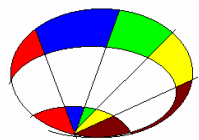
If your top choice either is not elected or already has enough votes to win a seat, your vote is recycled, it goes to your next choice. This would drastically reduce the number of wasted votes.



## Positive Politics

Currently politicians spend a lot of time criticising their main opponents as they know that under the current system all they need to do to win is to discredit their rivals in the eyes of the public. This inevitably leads to the people being cynical and suspicious of all politicians and can lead to people not even bothering to vote.

Under STV politicians would be trying to win as many second preferences as possible from people who had already chosen one of their opponents as a first preference. They would therefore project positive messages about their own proposals for the country.



## Fair Elections

With Choice voting there are fewer wasted votes and all points of view receive representation. Choice voting removes the incentive for changing electoral boundaries to advantage a particular political party. Choice Voting would give voters from all areas of the country an equal say and end the unfair situation where elections are decided in a handful of marginal seats.



## Voter Choice

Choice voting gives voters more choice. Voters will list candidates in whatever order they choose and for whatever reason. For example a voter who is particularly concerned about environmental issues could list all the candidates based on their green policies. Voters would be choosing people to represent them rather than political parties. This would provide genuine representation and would make elected representatives more accountable than ever before for their decisions.

If you would like to know more about choice voting, or would like more information about the campaign to switch to Choice Voting for Elections in the United Kingdom, send an email to [info@stvaction.org.uk](mailto:info@stvaction.org.uk) or visit our website

<http://www.stvAction.org.uk>