

How do you know which electoral system is best for Ontario?

First, you can identify what principles matter most to you...

**Legitimacy**

The system inspires confidence in both its process and its results.

**Fairness of representation**

The legislature reflects the make-up of Ontario; parties hold seats in proportion to the votes they received; and each vote carries equal weight.

**Voter choice**

Voters have both quantity and quality of choice on the ballot.

**Effective parties**

The system supports strong parties with different policies.

**Stable and effective government**

The system produces strong, stable governments.

**Effective parliament**

The legislature works well and has an effective opposition to keep the government in check.

**Stronger voter participation**

The system helps encourage more people to vote.

**Accountability**

Voters can identify decision-makers and hold them to account.

**Simplicity and practicality**

The system is practical and voters can understand how it works.

**The Citizens' Assembly wants to hear what you think**

We're holding consultation meetings from mid-November 2006 to late January 2007:

- *Attend a meeting and participate in the discussion*
- *Register online or by phone to make a presentation*

We're inviting written comments until January 15, 2007:

- *Submit your comments online*
- *Write to us by mail or fax*

Visit our website for details on how to participate and to download the consultation guide, *Citizens Talking to Citizens*.

**www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca**

Or pick up the guide at a ServiceOntario/ Government Information Centre near you (www.serviceontario.ca for locations).

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1792

That's the year we elected our first parliament.

Some people say Ontario's electoral system has stood the test of time.

Other people say it's time for a change.

**What do you think?**

The Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform wants to know.



**Our electoral system matters**

It determines what choices we have at election time and how our votes are counted and translated into seats for members of provincial parliament (MPPs). The system affects who is elected to represent us and which parties form the government and opposition.

**Ontario Citizens' Assembly**

The Citizens' Assembly was established by a regulation under Ontario's Election Act to assess our electoral system and others and to recommend whether Ontario should keep its current system or adopt a new one. The Citizens' Assembly is independent of government. It's made up of 104 Ontarians—103 randomly selected citizens—one from each electoral district—plus the Chair, George Thomson.

**Possible referendum**

If the Citizens' Assembly recommends a new system, the government will hold a referendum before or as part of the next election on October 4, 2007.

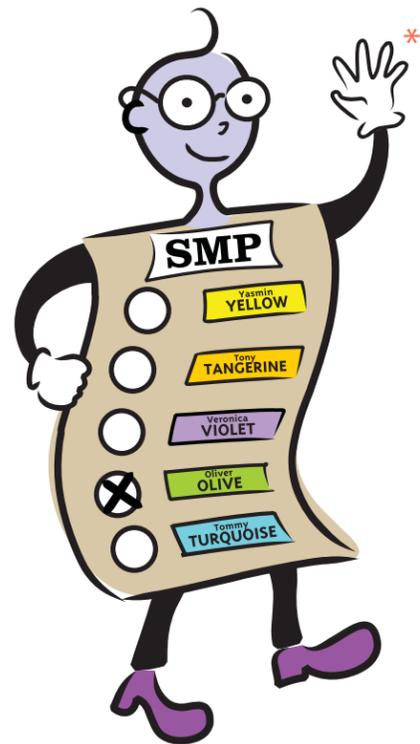
most important to you?  
you think are important?

Which of these principles are  
Are there other principles

Legitimacy    Accountability    Simplicity and Practicality    Voter Choice    Effective Parties  
 Fairness of Representation    Effective Parliament    Stable and Effective Government    Stronger Voter Participation

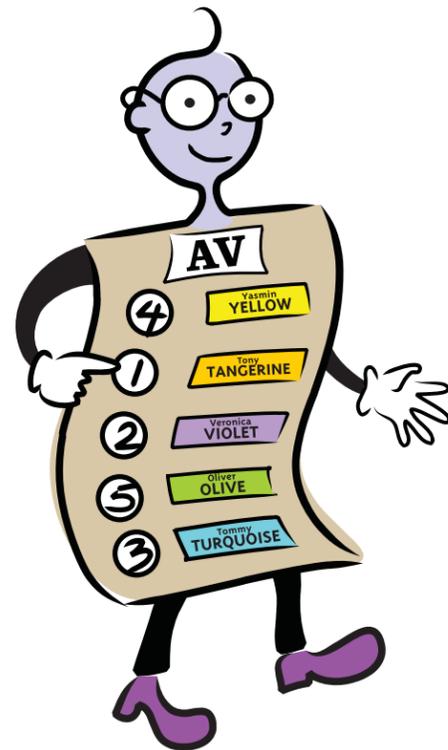
Then you can think about which electoral system is most likely to reflect these principles. Many electoral systems are used around the world. Each works in a different way and produces different results.

**A few examples of electoral systems**

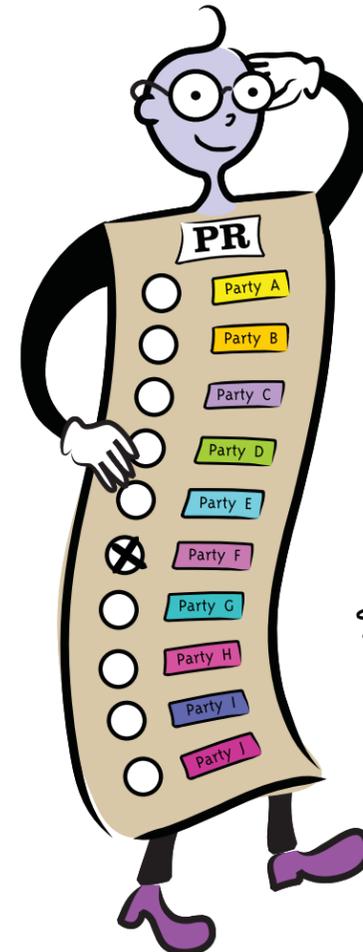


The system in Ontario is called **Single Member Plurality** or First Past the Post. Candidates need the most votes to win. They don't need a majority. The system often produces single-party majority government. This is one of the things supporters like about it.

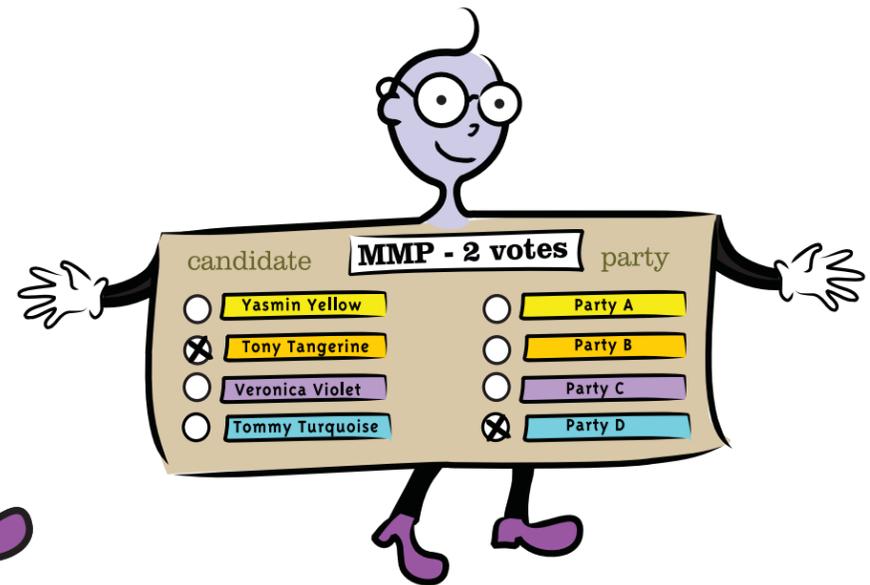
\* This is Billy Ballot from the Citizens' Assembly animation "Electoral Systems Around the World." Visit our website to see Billy in action.



In Majority systems, like **Alternative Vote** in Australia, voters rank all candidates in order of preference. A candidate must get a majority (50% plus 1) of votes to win. That's one of the reasons supporters like it.



In **Proportional Representation** systems, like the one in South Africa, voters usually choose a party. The proportion or share of seats a party wins is roughly equal to the proportion of votes it gets. This is one of the features supporters like about the system.



In the **Mixed Member Proportional** system, like the one in Germany, voters cast two votes on a single ballot, one for a party and one for a local candidate. This combination of local and proportional representation is one of the reasons supporters like it.

Visit the Citizens' Assembly website, [www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca), for more information on principles and electoral systems.