

Preparing for Weekend Two

The process and decision points for next weekend

Designing a Mixed Member Proportional System

- What are the the major design elements?

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **What should be the ratio between local and proportional list tier?**
- 50:50 (half local and half list) gives strong proportionality but sacrifices local seats unless the legislature is increased

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **What should be the ratio between local and proportional list tier?**
- 60:40 (60% local and 40% list) gives greater weight to local representation while giving up some proportionality

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **What should be the ratio between local and proportional list tier?**
- 75:25 (75% local and 25% list) provides strong local representation while allowing for more modest proportionality

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **How many local seats? How many list seats?**
- This is a consequence of the ratio of seats so that 50:50 might mean for example, 50 local seats and 50 list seats or 75 local seats and 75 list seats *etc.*

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **Should there be a single province-wide tier or should there be regions?**
- Province wide tier allows for greatest proportionality but may give up representation from a region

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **Should there be a single province-wide tier or should there be regions?**
- Regional tiers give up proportionality but allow for greater regional representation

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **If regions are chosen, how many should there be?**
 - fewer regions allow for greater proportionality but sacrifice geographic representation
 - greater number of regions facilitates regional representation but gives up some proportionality

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **If regional tiers are chosen should votes be counted by region or province wide?**
 - counting by region allows for voters' intentions to be represented regionally
 - counting province-wide and allocating regionally is more proportional but may be more complex to do

The major design decisions required for mixed systems

- **What is the size of the legislature?**
- A larger legislature improves representation and proportionality but too large may not be seen as legitimate

Other design decisions required for mixed systems

- Two votes (party and candidate) or one vote (candidate)?
- How should the local tier be elected, majority or plurality?
- Should the list tier be open list or closed list?

Other design decisions required for mixed systems

- DM -- same for each district or variable?
- List formula: what formula should be used to allocate PR seats?

Applying your priority objectives to mixed systems

- Your key objectives are:
 - Each geographic area of the province should have at least one representative.
 - The number of seats a party wins should more closely reflect its vote share.
 - Voters should be able to indicate both their preferred party and candidate.

Applying your preferred design objectives to mixed systems

- These design objectives will be part of our 'tool kit' over the next 2 to 3 weekends
- They will guide how we decide what choices we make in Mixed Member Proportional systems

Prepare for next weekend by reading the materials we will send

- Examples of mixed systems around the world and from submissions
- “Designing a Mixed Member Proportional System” will help you think about the decisions you will need to make next weekend

Prepare for next weekend by ...

- Engaging, discussing, and debating with members in the members' forum
- Come with an open mind and ready to think about how your priority objectives can be achieved in a system you will design

How you will deliberate: the process next weekend

- design the basic structures of your system in medium groups
- report back on what you decided in plenary
- design the other elements of your system in medium groups
- report back on what you decided in plenary

How you will deliberate: the process next weekend

- on Sunday, we will reflect on how the model you have designed looks
- how well does it meet your design objectives?
- what changes, if any, do you want to make?

How you will deliberate: the process next weekend

- Finally, next week after you have designed an alternative, you will be asked if you want to design a second alternative
- If so, why? If not, why not?