

# Designing STV for Ontario

# What is STV?

- It is a proportional system that achieves proportionality at the local level, using multi-member districts
- It uses an ordinal or ranked ballot

# How it achieves proportionality

- More than one member to be elected per district
- Establish a quota – all candidates who meet the quota are elected
- Surplus votes are transferred
- Votes of eliminated candidates are transferred
- Process continues until all the seats in the district are filled

# Context

- Each electoral district will have more than one member – the districts will be larger geographically but voters in each district will have more representatives.
- In general, to assure proportionality, the DM should be 5 or an average of 5 – if you reduce that you achieve more modest proportionality.
- The DMs can vary in size but if some are below the average you want, others have to be larger.

# ...Context

- An STV system, like all systems, can be achieved without increasing the size of the legislature  
e.g. 21-22 districts with an average DM of 5
- Increasing the size of the legislature might be done:
  - a) To add districts so that they are somewhat smaller than they would otherwise be;
  - b) To add more members to each district (within rep by pop requirements).

# Three major components

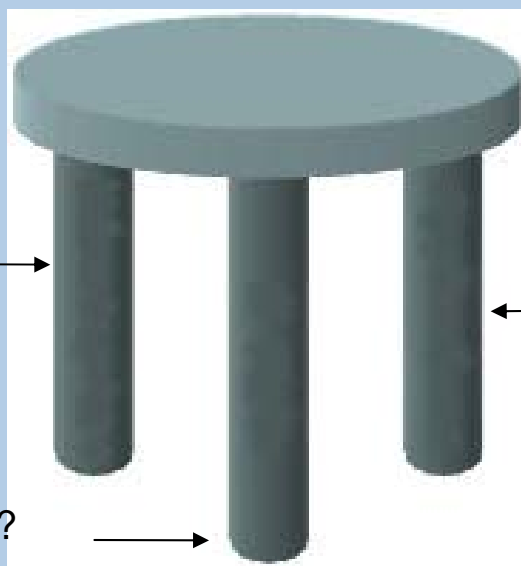
District Magnitudes?



Number of Districts?



Size of Legislature?



# ...Three major components

- **District Magnitude**

- The same in each district or variable (Ontario's geography)
- If variable:
  - average DM (degree of proportionality)
  - range

Note: You don't have to divide up the province in detail – where larger and where smaller

- **Legislature Size**

- **Number of Districts**

- Legislature size / DM

# Looking at your design

## Your options:

- You can decide to have more districts that are geographically smaller but this means either:
  - Reduced proportionality (ie. smaller average DM) or
  - Larger legislature (ie. more members per district) or
  - Larger district magnitudes in other districts to compensate (ie. larger DMs in urban areas)

# ...Looking at your design

## Or to say this in other ways:

- You can increase the number of districts to achieve more local representation but this means either less proportionality or a larger legislature
- You can increase the size of the legislature to allow for larger DMs to avoid compromising overall proportionality

# Other design decisions

1. How to transfer surplus ballots
2. Vacancies
3. Ballot completion