

**Mixed Systems**

**GLOSSARY**

**Adjustment seats** – Second-tier seats in Mixed Member Proportional electoral systems (e.g., in Germany) or List Proportional Representation electoral systems (e.g., in Sweden). They are awarded to parties on the basis of their proportion of the national (or regional) vote in such a way as to adjust, or compensate, for seat bonuses and deficits in the first-tier races. Also called compensatory seats.

**Double ballot** – In most mixed systems, a double ballot allows the voter to vote twice, usually once for a local representative and once for a political party.

**Overhang seat** – An extra seat added to a legislature in Mixed Member Proportional electoral systems when parties win more seats in the first tier than their total vote share entitles them to. Overhang seats are needed to ensure that no party loses a seat that has been won at the local level.

**Tiers** – A group of seats in the legislature elected on a different basis from other seats. In a mixed system, seats from single-member districts constitute the first tier, and a group of seats elected from national or regional party lists constitute the second tier. It is also possible, though, to have two (or more) tiers in a List Proportional Representation system, where one tier is elected in regional multimember districts and the second tier consists of a group of national party list seats serving as adjustment seats. Both Hungary (Mixed Member Proportional) and Austria (List PR) have three tiers (local, regional, and national).

**Vote splitting** – The opportunity for voters to vote more than one way, as with a double ballot, where a vote for a local representative is separate from a vote for a political party. For political parties in multi-member districts (particularly in Single Transferable Vote systems), vote splitting involves the possibility that voters may divide their votes between two candidates of the same party, thereby decreasing the likelihood that either will be elected.