

Design Variations in Electoral Systems

Other issues not covered
in the Mixed Systems simulation



What design decisions did the simulation examine?

- decisions about districts
 - what should be the relationship between the list tier and the proportional tier?
 - compensatory or non-compensatory
 - what should the ratio be between the local representatives and the list representatives?

What design decisions did the simulation examine?

- decisions about the proportional tier
 - what is the formula used at the PR tier?
 - should there be a threshold at the PR tier?

What are some of the other design decisions in mixed systems?

- decisions about ballot structure
 - should the ballot have one vote or two?
- two votes allows for greater choice
- one vote may be easier to understand

What are some of the other design decisions in mixed systems?

- decisions about ballot structure
 - should the list part of the ballot be open or closed?
- open allows for greater choice
- closed may permit 'zippering'

What are some of the other design decisions in mixed systems?

- decisions about candidates in local tier
 - should candidates be allowed to run locally and have their name on the party list?
- if on both, likelihood of electoral success and ensures list candidate has some local support
- if on one, reinforce differences between list and candidate parties

What are some of the other design decisions in mixed systems?

- decisions about candidates in local tier
 - how should the local candidate be elected?
- plurality or majority?
- plurality maintains feature of current system
- majority creates a higher threshold for local candidates

What are some of the other design decisions in mixed systems?

- decisions about how votes are counted
 - should seats be allocated by region or province-wide?
 - should votes be counted by region or province-wide?

Counting and allocating seats

Counting province-wide

If List PR seats are *counted* province-wide

**decreases
wasted votes**



Seats can be *allocated*
province-wide

Seats can be *allocated*
regionally

Counting and allocating seats

Counting regionally

If List PR seats are *counted* regionally



**ensures representation
of regionally
concentrated groups**

**Seats are *allocated*
regionally**

What are some other design decisions in mixed systems?

- Should the district magnitude vary in less populous regions or should the DM be the same in all districts?
 - varying the DM may permit smaller districts in the north but at the expense of proportionality

What are some other design decisions in mixed systems?

- How are by-elections conducted?
- Should the size of the legislature be increased?

Ontario



Citizens' Assembly
on Electoral Reform

L'Assemblée des citoyens
sur la réforme électorale

Design Variations in Electoral Systems

Other issues not covered
in the Single Transferable Vote simulation



What design decisions did the simulation examine?

- Decisions about ballot structure
 - Does the voter need to rank all candidates?

What design decisions did the simulation examine?

- Decisions about districts
 - What is the trade-off between proportionality and smaller geographic districts?

What are some other design decisions in STV?

- Should the district magnitude vary in less populous regions or should the DM be the same in all districts?
 - varying the DM may permit smaller districts in northern or rural areas but at the expense of proportionality

What are some other design decisions in STV?

- How should surplus votes be transferred?
 - counting all at a reduced transfer rate eliminates randomness but counting the 'last parcel' or 'random ballots' might be easier

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