

FAIRER votes

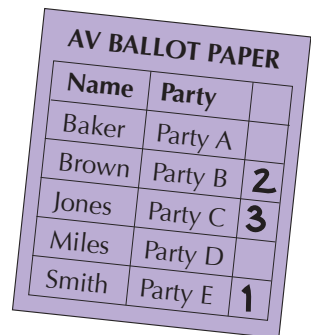
The Alternative Vote

How do you vote with AV?

With the present voting system, you mark an X against just one candidate.

With AV, you number as many candidates as you like in order of preference: 1, 2, 3,...

You are saying: "I want No 1 to win. But, if No 1 has no chance, I want No 2 to win – and so on."



An illustration of a purple ballot paper titled 'AV BALLOT PAPER'. It contains a table with three columns: 'Name', 'Party', and a column for ranking numbers. The rows are for Baker (Party A), Brown (Party B), Jones (Party C), Miles (Party D), and Smith (Party E). The numbers 2, 3, and 1 are written in the ranking column for Brown, Jones, and Smith respectively.

Name	Party	
Baker	Party A	
Brown	Party B	2
Jones	Party C	3
Miles	Party D	
Smith	Party E	1

Why is AV a better system?

There is no need for tactical voting. You can vote for the candidate you really want to win.

Extremist parties are less likely to win seats in Parliament, because they will attract few 2nd preference votes.

Every MP must be supported by more than 50% of their voters. So a widely unpopular candidate is unlikely to be elected.

AV discourages negative campaigning and extreme policies, because candidates need to attract 2nd preferences as well as appeal to their own voters.

How are votes counted?

If no candidate gets 50% of the votes cast, the 2nd preference votes of the lowest candidate are distributed to the other candidates. And so on, until one candidate gets 50%.