

How we handle elections

The ballot in Hokorian elections use the 'alternative vote'. This means that voters must rank the candidates in order of how much they'd like to see them elected.

Each candidate is assigned an internal letter. When a ballot is submitted, it is inputted into the Election spreadsheet, in the following format:

Voter	Status	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice	5th choice	6th choice
1	TBV	A	B	C	D	E	F

The first step is to verify the ballot and the voter- the person overseeing the election will:

1. Check that the ballot is formatted correctly
2. Check that the voter's details match a record on the system
3. Check that multiple ballots have not been submitted under the voter's identity

Once completely verified, the status is changed from 'TBV' (to be verified) to 'VER' (verified). If the ballot is not verified and is deemed invalid, it is recorded on a Counter Fraud Sheet.

Calculating the final results

Once voting ends, or all individuals who are eligible to vote have voted, the results get counted. We avoid calculating or publishing results or 'live results' until voting has concluded.

1. Initial Vote Count:

- Count the first-choice votes for each candidate.

2. Quota Calculation:

- Determine if any candidate has achieved the required number of votes to secure a seat ($50\% + 1$ of valid votes for single-winner AV, but for multi-member, we eliminate the least popular until we have a ranking).

3. Elimination and Redistribution:

- If no candidate meets the required number of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes.

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- Redistribute the eliminated candidate's votes to the next ranked candidate on each affected ballot.

4. Repeat:

- Repeat the process until only one candidate remains, or rank all candidates from most popular to least popular based on their elimination order.

Once we have a definitive result, we will check it at least one more time to check that the result is consistent.

Countering election fraud

Once a ballot is added to the Counter Fraud Sheet, it gets checked. The reviewer has access to tools that can assist them in finding out if a ballot was submitted maliciously.

If not, general information about the ballot (why it was invalid) is passed on to the Hokorian Assembly for their own use in raising public awareness and creating useful information resources.