



Reforming the French Voting System

We tend to believe that the voting system is not changeable, that the issues with our representatives arises from corruption. Well, what if these issues were arising from the voting system ? Is everyone's voice equally heard ? Are we really voting for our favorite candidate?

Voting system in Ireland

INSTANT-RUNOFF VOTING

Also known as « alternative vote », this is the method the Irish chose to elect their President. There are a number of variations in IRV : we present here the Irish case.

How does it works ?

- Voters rank the candidates in order of preference
- Ballots are initially counted for each elector's top choice. If a candidate secures more than half of these votes, that candidate wins. Otherwise, the candidate in last place is eliminated and removed from consideration.
- The top remaining choices on all the ballots are then counted again
- This process repeats until one candidate is the top remaining choice of a majority of the voters

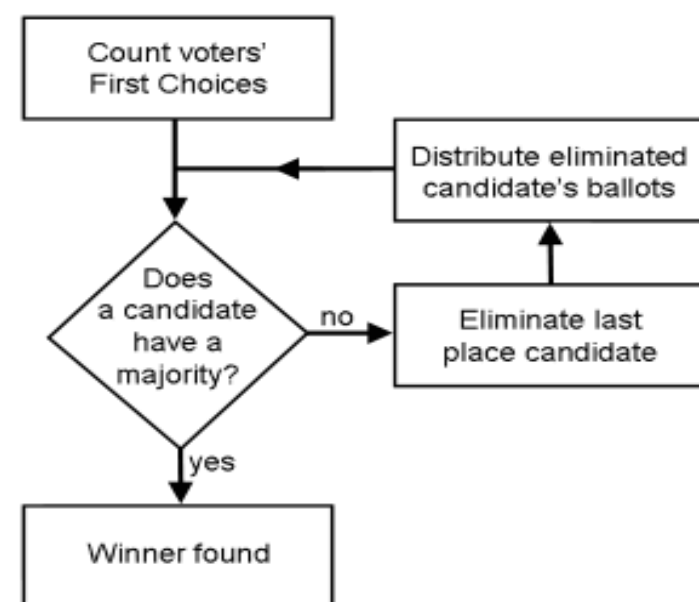
Optional preferential voting

OPV is a voting system under which voters may choose to mark a preference for one candidate (effectively voting as though it were a first-past-the-post election), all candidates or any number of candidates in between.

Rank any number of options in your order of preference.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Smith
1	John Citizen
3	Jane Doe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fred Rubble
2	Mary Hill

IRV counting flowchart



Although complete numbering is not required under the OPV system (unlike full-preferential voting), single-preference voters may be required to use a '1' rather than a tick or cross. Some jurisdictions allow ticks or crosses as the voter's intention is clear.

Is it better than our system ?

IRV has many advantages, as you can see below, and its main drawbacks are those we already have. However, IRV is more likely to elect the Condorcet winner than our system !



- Voters can express their preferences concerning all the candidates, so their wills are better represented
- IRV meets a lot of criteria, including the Later-no-harm criterion
- IRV avoids split votes when multiple candidates are similar



- Electoral choice is more complex for voters
- IRV does not meet the Condorcet winner criterion, which states that "if a candidate would win a head-to-head competition against every other candidate, then that candidate must win the overall election"
- IRV can be susceptible to strategic nomination

Current situation in France

Why is our current voting system wrong ?

How does it work ?

It's a two-round voting system:

The first round, every voters put the name of the candidate they want to elect. If a candidate receive a majority, he's elected President. If not, the two candidates with most votes go on the second round. The voting phase for the second round is the same as the first. The candidate with the most votes win get elected President.

When can we vote?

In France, for the second round: first sunday of May
for the first round: two weeks before

In foreign countries: the saturday before the election

What is the Condorcet paradox?

An election could never satisfy the majority of the population

1/3 : A > B > C
1/3 : B > C > A
1/3 : C > A > B
A > B > C > A

What is the Arrow paradox?

If A has a better in the opinion poll, it can decrease his chance to be elect in the second round.

Situation 1		Situation 2	
34% : A > B > C	66% : A > C	37% : A > B > C	69% : B > A
32% : B > A > C	34% : C > A	32% : B > A > C	31% : A > B
34% : C > B > A		31% : C > B > A	

Tactical voting appear: You don't vote for your truly own opinion. You try to stop an undesired candidate by voting for the candidate that has the better chance to win.

Consequences:

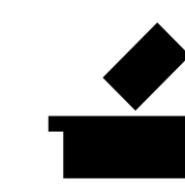
- > Lack of representativity: Elections only represent the opinion about the candidate that you don't want to become President.
- > Lack of interest in politics: How can we be interested in an election that doesn't represent the population's opinion?

Voting logistics in South Korea

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Since south korean people aren't obligated to vote, the country makes a great effort to assure its citizens to be involved into the democratic life.

Early voting



Eligible voters that are likely not to be in their voting zones are allowed to vote in advance at **any polling place in the country and no matter the reason.**



Removing barriers

Disabled people have more and more support from society under various aspects like: welfare, civil rights and interests.

Encouraging participation



In most countries, the Election Management Body (EMB) usually focus most of its resources into the fundamental task of assuring the fairness of the election process.

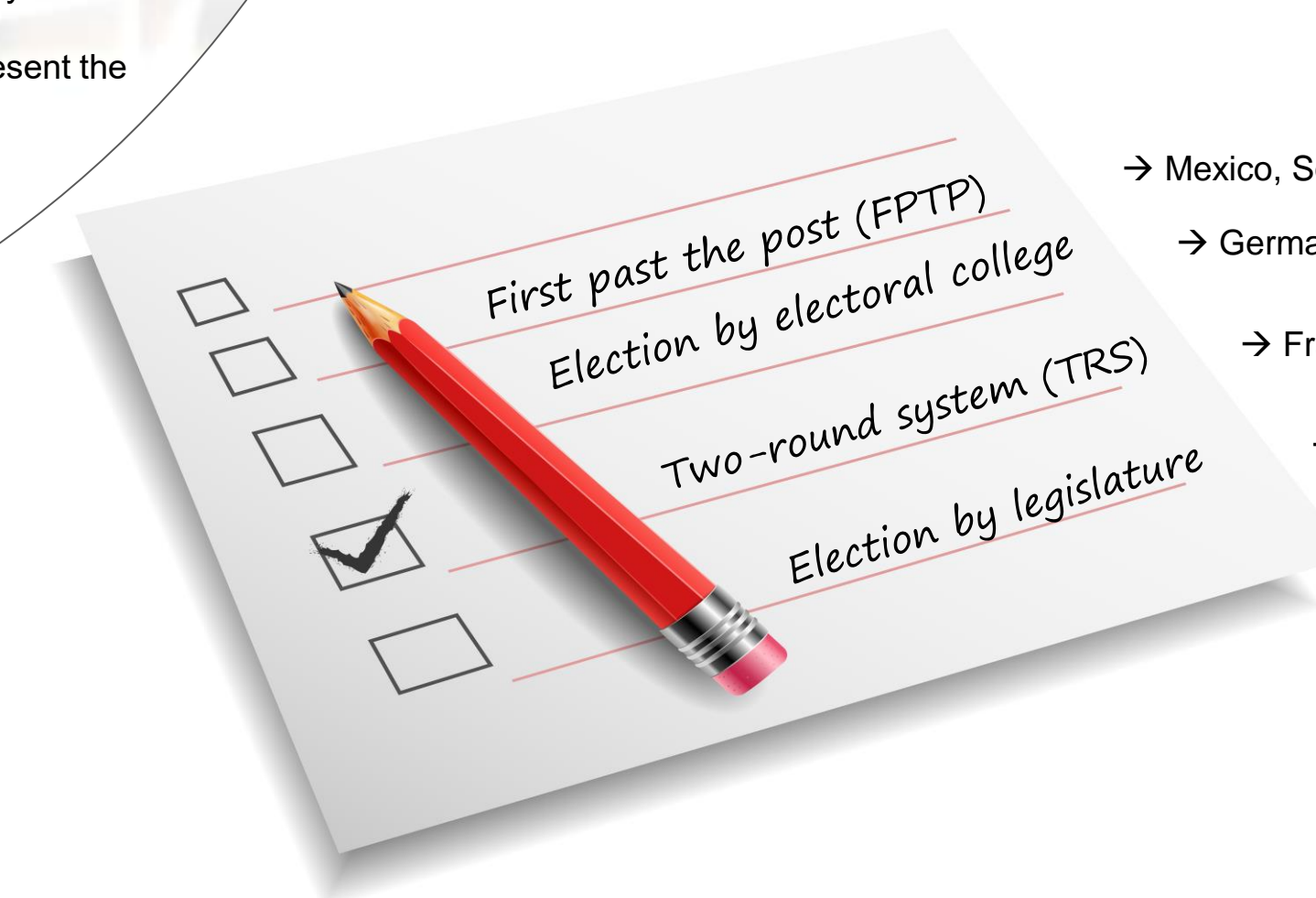
For the south korean EMB, a duty as important as guaranteeing the fairness of the elections is encouraging voter participation. Since 1996, when the Nation Election Commission (NEC) established the Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy, civic education programmes for political parties, candidates and the general public are offered in order to enhance the awareness of voters of the importance of participation.

In South Korea, a special attention is provide to the disabled in order to assure they can participate in elections.

Regarding that, some systems exist:

- physically disabled can vote from home;
- institutionalised patients can vote from nursing homes and from hospital;
- ramps of access are temporarily set up in the polls stations;
- student helpers are specially designated to help disabled at the polls stations;
- visually impaired people receive guides written in Braille;
- hearing impaired people get assistance from special helpers;

OTHER MAIN VOTING SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD FOR HEAD OF STATE



→ Mexico, South Korea, Philippines

→ Germany, USA, India

→ France, Brazil, Russia

→ Italia, China, South Africa

What would be the perfect voting system ?

Is there a way of voting that would get rid of every known paradox and thus be more fair to candidates and give a result that would please most people ? Yes, there is one, but it is very new so it is not yet used in any country. This voting system is call **the majority judgement**. Everyone has to give to each candidate an appreciation, be it: Very Good, Good, Average, Bad or Very Bad. Then, the final score of every candidate is the median appreciation given by the voters and the winner is the one with the best appreciation. In this method, there is no point in being strategic and exaggerate our appreciation. Indeed if a candidate appreciation is Good, changing the voe of most people who voted Good for Very Good will not change the overall result, all that matter is on which side of the median you are. Then everybody can be honest and even small candidates get a real appreciation of their ideas even if their program is close to a bigger candidate's one. Let's hope we will be able to change our voting system for this one very soon.