

# Choice Voting

*Choice voting is as easy as 1, 2, 3!*

Choice voting (also called the “single transferable vote”) is a one-person, one-vote system in which voters maximize their one vote’s effectiveness through ranking preferences.

**1**

## **How do you vote?**

*To vote, voters simply rank as many candidates as they wish, knowing that lower choices will not count against higher choices.*

**2**

## **How do you determine winners?**


*After counting ‘first choices’ candidates reaching the threshold are elected. To avoid wasting votes, ‘surplus’ ballots beyond the threshold are transferred to the remaining candidates according to voters’ preferences.*

**3**

## **What happens if my first choice doesn’t win?**

*The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and all his/her ballots are distributed among the remaining candidates according to the voters’ preferences listed on ballots. The process continues until all of the seats are filled.*

### Sample Ballot



S. Lopez	<b>2</b>
J. Smith	<b>3</b>
L. Franklin	
T. Johnson	<b>1</b>
M. Anderson	<b>4</b>

- **minimizes wasted votes**
- **helps promote coalition building**
- **less expensive campaigns [winners need fewer votes]**
- **makes possible a broad political spectrum**
- **no more voting for the lesser of two evils**
- **increases voter turnout by giving voters more choices**
- **provides fair results**

## **Where is this system used?**

*Choice voting is used in Cambridge (MA) city council elections and the New York City local school board elections. It also has a history in early 20<sup>th</sup> century America. Cincinnati (OH) used choice voting from 1925 to 1957. It was responsible for increased minority representation on most of the city councils where it was used during that time period.*