

YHA New Zealand National Board Regulation



YHA New Zealand Voting Calculation Description, Single Transferable Vote (STV)

“**STV Software System**” means the Choice Plus Pro version 2.1 software developed by Voting Solutions and/or such other hardware and software used from time to time for the purpose of counting votes pursuant to this Schedule;

“**Voting Paper**” means a voting paper, a facsimile copy of a voting paper, and an electronic document or electronic message that is designed to enable a voter to record his or her vote at an election and transmit it electronically for counting; and any copy of that document or message (with or without the voter's vote recorded); and any record of that document or message with the voter's vote recorded.

RULES FOR COUNTING THE VOTES

1. NUMBER OF VOTES

- 1.1. Every eligible YHA New Zealand senior financial member has one vote for each election on the voting paper, i.e. National Board, Honorary Vice-Presidents and Awards Committee. All of which use the Single Transferable Voting Method whereby members rank preferences next to the candidates they wish to vote for, after which the preferences are captured by the Returning Officer and the election results calculated using the STV Software System.

2. COUNTING FIRST PREFERENCES

- 2.1. The aggregate number of first preferences recorded shall be divided by one more than the number of candidates required to be elected, and the quotient increased by one, disregarding any remainder, shall be the quota, and (except as provided in rule 8 of this Schedule), a candidate who does not obtain a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota shall not be elected.
- 2.2. A candidate who has, after the first preferences have been counted, a number of such preferences equal to or greater than the quota shall be declared elected.

3. FIRST PREFERENCES EQUAL TO OR IN EXCESS OF QUOTA

- 3.1. If the number of first preferences obtained by a candidate is equal to the quota, the whole of the voting papers on which a first preference is recorded for that candidate shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- 3.2. If the number of first preferences obtained by a candidate is in excess of the quota, the proportion of those preferences in excess of the quota shall be transferred to the other candidates not yet declared elected, next in the order of the respective preferences of the electors, in the following manner:
 - a) all the voting papers on which a first preference is recorded for the elected candidate shall be re-examined, and the number of second preferences, or third or next consecutive preferences, recorded for each unelected candidate shall be counted;
 - b) the surplus of the elected candidate shall be divided by the total number of votes obtained by the candidate on the counting of the first preferences, and the resulting fraction shall be the transfer value;
 - c) the number of second or other preferences, ascertained in rule 3.2(a) of this Schedule to be recorded for each unelected candidate, shall be multiplied by the transfer value; and
 - d) the resulting number shall be transferred to each unelected candidate, and added to the number of votes obtained by that candidate on the counting of the first preferences.

4. SURPLUSES

- 4.1. Where, on the counting of the first preferences or on a transfer, more than one candidate has a surplus, the largest surplus shall be dealt with first, but if one candidate has obtained a surplus at a count or transfer previous to that at which another candidate obtains a surplus, the surplus of the former shall be dealt with first.
- 4.2. Where 2 or more surpluses are equal, the surplus of the candidate who was the highest on the poll at the count or transfer at which they last had an unequal number of votes shall be dealt with first, and, if they have an equal number of votes at all preceding counts or transfers, the candidate to be dealt with first shall be decided by lot.

5. INCREASE IN VOTE EQUAL TO OR IN EXCESS OF QUOTA

- 5.1. If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which is equal to, or exceeds the quota by a transfer, the candidate shall be declared elected.
- 5.2. In a case to which rule 5.1 of this Schedule applies, notwithstanding the fact that the candidate may have reached the quota, the transfer and other simultaneous transfers shall be completed, and all the votes to which the candidate is entitled from those transfers shall be transferred, but no votes of any other candidate shall be transferred to that candidate.
- 5.3. If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which is equal to the quota by a transfer, the voting papers on which such votes are recorded shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- 5.4. Where the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which exceeds the quota by a transfer, that surplus shall be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the respective preferences of the votes, in the following manner:
 - a) the voting papers on which are recorded the votes received by the elected candidate shall be re-examined, and the number of next consecutive preferences recorded for each unelected candidate counted;
 - b) the surplus of the elected candidate shall be divided by the total number of voting papers mentioned in rule 5.4(a) of this Schedule, and the resulting fraction shall be the transfer value;
 - c) the number of preferences, ascertained in accordance with rule 5.4(a) of this Schedule as having been recorded for each unelected candidate, shall be multiplied by the last mentioned transfer value; and
 - d) the resulting number shall be credited to each unelected candidate, and added to the number of votes previously obtained by that candidate.

6. LOWEST POLLING CANDIDATES

- 6.1. Where, after the first preferences have been counted and all surpluses, if any, have been transferred, no candidate, or fewer than the number of candidates required to be elected, has or have obtained the quota, the candidates who, at that time, are mathematically guaranteed to lose or, if there are no such candidates, the candidate who, at that time, is lowest on the poll, shall be excluded, and all the votes obtained by those candidates shall be transferred simultaneously to the candidates next in the order of the respective preferences of the electors, in the same manner as provided by rule 3.2 of this Schedule.
- 6.2. The transfer value of each of the votes obtained by an excluded candidate as first preferences shall be "1". The other votes of an excluded candidate shall be dealt with at the transfer value at which they were obtained.

7. TRANSFER OF VOTES

- 7.1. If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which is equal to, or exceeds, the quota by a transfer, the candidate shall be declared elected.
- 7.2. If rule 7.1 of this Schedule applies, notwithstanding the fact that the candidate may have reached the quota, the transfer shall be completed, and all the votes to which the candidate is entitled from the transfer shall be transferred, but no other votes shall be transferred to that candidate.
- 7.3. If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number of votes which is equal to, but does not exceed, the quota by a transfer, the voting papers on which those votes are recorded shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- 7.4. If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which exceeds the quota by a transfer, the surplus shall be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the respective preferences of the electors in the same manner as provided by rule 5.4 of this Schedule, but that surplus shall not be dealt with until all the votes of the excluded candidate have been transferred.
- 7.5. If a surplus exists, it shall be dealt with before any other candidate is excluded.

8. TRANSFER OF VOTES OF EXCLUDED CANDIDATES

- 8.1. The process of excluding the candidate who has polled the next lowest number of votes at the election and transferring to other candidates the votes of the excluded candidate shall be repeated until all the candidates,

except the number required to be elected, have been excluded, and the non-excluded candidates who have not already been declared elected shall then be declared elected.

9. CANDIDATES WITH EQUAL NUMBERS OF VOTES

9.1. If it becomes necessary to exclude a candidate, and 2 or more candidates having the same number of votes are at the time, the lowest on the poll, then whichever of those candidates was recorded as having the lowest number of votes at the last count or transfer at which they had an unequal number of votes shall be excluded first, and if those candidates have had an equal number of votes at all preceding counts or transfers, the candidate to be excluded first shall be decided by lot.

10. ORDER OF PREFERENCES

10.1. In determining which candidate is next in the order of preference of an elector, any candidates who have been declared elected or who have been excluded shall not be considered, and the order of the preference shall be determined as if the names of those candidates had not been on the voting paper.

11. EXHAUSTED VOTING PAPERS

11.1. If on a transfer it is found that on a voting paper there is no candidate opposite whose name a number is placed, other than a candidate who has already been either declared elected or excluded, the voting paper shall be set aside as exhausted.

11.2. Where the preference of an elector has been indicated in any way other than solely by the use of numbers the voting paper shall be set aside as exhausted after the counting of:

- a) the first preference indicated by the voting paper, if "1" is the only number used; or
- b) the preferences indicated by a sequence of numbers beginning with "1".

11.3. If the same number is recorded opposite the name of more than one candidate or if a number within the sequence of preferences indicated is missing, the voting paper shall be set aside as exhausted immediately before preferences indicated by that number are considered.

12. ILLUSTRATION OF PRINCIPLE TO BE APPLIED TO CANDIDATES WHO BECOME INELIGIBLE AND WITHDRAWN CANDIDATES

12.1. The principle to be applied to preferences cast for candidates who become ineligible and withdrawn candidates can be illustrated by referring to the following scenario: if a member casts his or her first preference for a candidate who becomes ineligible, withdraws or dies before the closing time for receiving voting papers and casts his or her second preference for a candidate who is eligible, then that member’s second preference would be counted as the equivalent of a first preference vote. Surplus votes will flow through ineligible candidates and withdrawn candidates in a similar manner.

Example – Format of Results of Election

Counting Votes in a hypothetical Single Transferable Vote (STV) election with three vacancies

Number of valid votes cast +1000

Number of votes needed by a candidate to be elected (using Droop quota) $\frac{(1000)+1}{3+1} = 251$

	Order of election	First count	Second count Distribution of Stafford's surplus	Third count Distribution of Morrison's votes	Fourth count Distribution of Harvey's surplus
Harvey	2	175	* +10 =185	** +100 =285	-34 = 251
Jones		200	+3 =203	+31 = 234	+8 = 242
Morrison		150	+1 = 151	- 151 = 0	= 0
Stafford	1	270	-19 =251	=251	=251
Wadsworth	3	205	+5 =210	+20 =230	+26 = 256

* This show Harvey was the second choice for half of those who voted for Stafford. That translated to 10 of the 19 surplus votes distributed.

** Harvey also got 2/3 of Morrison’s 151 “2” votes.