

Single Transferable Ballot

Whenever there are more than two candidates for any office to be elected, the single transferable vote process can be used. (RIB 9.120.2.) Election for the Council on Legislation Representative and Alternate will be conducted by **Single Transferable Ballot** as prescribed by Rotary International.

1. Each Elector present casts his/her ballot by ranking each candidate as a 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice.
2. Remember all club electors must vote the same way. There are no split votes.
3. No Proxy votes are allowed.

How the Single Transferable Ballot System Operates

When there are more than two candidates, each elector casts one ballot, but it can be transferable (that is, express preferences for multiple candidates) in the following manner:

The elector places the number 1 on the ballot next to the name of the candidate who is the elector's first choice. This is known as a first-preference vote.

The elector then places the number 2 next to the name of his or her second choice, the number 3 next to the name of his or her third choice, and so on. Electors can indicate as many choices as there are candidates.

The candidate who receives a majority (at least 50 percent) of the first-preference votes cast is elected. If no candidate obtains a majority, the lower preference votes are counted.

For example:

There are four candidates (A, B, C, and D) for one position. Ballots are sorted into four piles, A, B, C, and D, by first-preference vote, and counted. On the first count, no one has at least 50 percent of all of the votes cast. Candidate C had the fewest votes and is therefore eliminated. Each ballot in candidate C's pile is placed on the A, B, or D pile according to the name marked with the number 2.

The transfer of these votes, however, still does not result in a majority for any one of the three remaining candidates. In this second count, candidate B has the fewest votes and is eliminated. The ballots that were in candidate B's pile are divided between candidates A and D, as indicated by the voter's next choice. Any choices for candidate C are not counted, because C has already been eliminated. This transfer, called the third count, results in a clear majority for candidate D.

A ballot that does not number all available choices is counted only for the choices marked. Thereafter, it is considered nontransferable and is disregarded. An X is considered an indication of first choice. A ballot marked with a "1" or an "X" for more than one name is considered invalid and cannot be counted.

In the Event of a Tie

If on any count there is a tie for an absolute majority, the result is determined by the number and relative value of the preferences. The candidates having the lowest number of first preferences on the second count, of first and second preferences on the third count, and so on in successive counts are to be excluded.