An English-Arabic Translator’s Guide to Election Terminology

Prepared by May Ahmar
The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

For more information, please contact:

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

2030 M Street, 5th Floor, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3306
tel: +1 (202) 728-5500
fax: +1 (202) 728-5520

P.O.Box: 13-5320
Chouran 1102-2030
Beirut, Lebanon
tel: +961 1 805 632
fax: +961 1 805 633
www.ndi.org

Please send your feedback or comments to:

arabictranslation@ndi.org
Forward

Compiling the English based jargon of election work and translating it into a language as intricate and uncompromising as Arabic is a daunting mission. NDI's Arabic Publication Center in Beirut is not the first to try, but with 630 entries, NDI's *Translator's English-Arabic Guide to Election Terminology* may have left only few stones unturned. Even the most obscure expressions have been discussed and definitions have been attempted.

It would be an understatement to say that Arabic speakers are passionate about Arabic and quick to debate usage, nuance and meaning. Yet another component of the debate is the issue of regional differences. In Lebanon, for example, "mabsut" means happy. In Iraq "mabsut" means well beaten. As with most communication, context is everything.

As NDI expands democracy and governance programs throughout the Arabic speaking world, Arabic speakers on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) team will inevitably be at the forefront of creating new and precise idiom to convey the concepts and ideas central to NDI's work.

The team at the Arabic Publication Center, who developed this *Guide*, humbly offers this first effort with the hope that it will not only prove useful to NDI programs but that it will spark the regional discussion necessary to refine and improve its content. The *Guide* is meant to be used as a reference document for NDI staff and contract interpreters. It is not meant to be the final, authoritative resource.

User feedback is essential - comments and thoughts on terms, definition, usage, and regional application are desired and actively solicited. To make this process as simple as possible, each copy of the *Guide* contains self-addressed, tear-off, mail-in sheets for comments. All that is required is a stamp. Comments and suggestions can also be emailed to the NDI translation team at:

arabictranslation@ndi.org.
Ms. May Ahmar, Arabic Publication Center Coordinator in Lebanon, developed the project and served as the primary and final editor. She was assisted by Ms. Hiba Charara with research and by Lebanon staff member, Ms. Nour Al Assad with translation.

The glossary included in "The Political Campaign Planning Manual" by J.Brian O'Day for NDI, was added verbatim to the Guide. Other primary sources and websites are gratefully acknowledged below:

- The UNTERM: It is a Multilingual Database including terminology related to the United Nations’ work in elections, governance and other programs. [http://157.150.197.21/dgaacs/unterm.nsf](http://157.150.197.21/dgaacs/unterm.nsf)
- The UNDP Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR). [www.pogar.org](http://www.pogar.org)
- ACE PROJECT Glossary: [www.aceproject.org](http://www.aceproject.org) (Produced by the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA))

Other secondary sources included:

- The Boulder Community Network (BCN): it provides non-profit organizations with information about community issues. [http://bcn.boulder.co.us](http://bcn.boulder.co.us)
- Elections Canada is an independent body established by parliament. This website is part of an effort to provide accessible information about the federal electoral system. [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)
- Access Clark County is the official website for the Clark County in Nevada. It provides information about local government, legislation, and public services for local constituents. [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)
- [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)
- [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)

Please accept our thanks in advance for your feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Joseph Hall, Senior Advisor  
Middle East and North Africa  
Beirut, Lebanon  
jhall@ndi.org
Absentee Ballot - Administration Clerk

**Absentee Ballot**

A ballot used by voters who are unable to go to the polls to vote, either because they are disabled or will be away from the district on election day. Often it is mailed to the voters and they must send it back to the board of elections before Election Day. See Ballot.

**Absentee Voting / Ballot**

A voting method by which people can cast their ballots without going to the polling place on election day. According to various state laws or constitutions, voters have a time frame by which they can obtain a ballot before the election, mark it, and then usually mail it, sealed, to the appropriate election official.

**Absolute Majority**

In most countries, an absolute majority is more than 50 per cent, but in some, to qualify for an absolute and not just simple majority, it is 70%.

**Accessibility**

The electorate, and its representatives, have full access to the process during all its stages — campaigning, registration, voting and counting — and have the ability to reach all the voters by having sufficient means (funding) and access.

**Ad Hoc Electoral Districts**

Electoral districts that are periodically redrawn.

**Additional Member System**

Another term for a Mixed Member Proportional System.

**Adjudication**

The hearing and deciding of a legal case in a court of law.

**Administration Clerk**

Responsible for organizing materials for Polling Day and assisting with post Polling day statutory requirements, in addition to performing general administration and clerical functions.
Administrative Exclusion

Exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.

Advance Voting

Voting taking place in the days in the lead up to polling day by voters who will not be able to vote on election day. Also known as early voting, or advance polling.

Advertisements

A form of voter contact in which the campaign pays to have the mass media deliver the message. See Message, Mass Media and Paid Media.

Alien/Non-Citizen

Individuals living in a country who are not legal citizens of the nation or of the state in which they reside.

Allocation of Seats

Distribution of seats to political parties or candidates according to votes received.

Alphabetical Voting

In some elections the voters are required to make a set number of choices. Many voters will make most of these choices alphabetically as the candidates are listed on the ballot, without any evaluation as to the candidates' qualifications.

Alternative Vote

Under the Alternative Vote system you vote by showing your preferences. This means putting each candidate in order - from the candidate who you most want to win as your 1st choice, to the candidate who you least want to win as your last choice.

Amendment of Electoral Law

A revision or change made in the electoral law and regulations by formal procedure.

Associated/Member of a Party

Associated with, or a member of, a political party or political organization.

Administrative Exclusion Amendment of Electoral Law

Administrative exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.

Administrative Exclusion Amendment of Electoral Law

Administrative exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.

Administrative Exclusion Amendment of Electoral Law

Administrative exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.

Administrative Exclusion Amendment of Electoral Law

Administrative exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.

Administrative Exclusion Amendment of Electoral Law

Administrative exclusion occurs when people who are ostensibly eligible to vote are not entitled to vote because they have been left off the voters list. They may be excluded, for example, simply by their own choice or personal habits, or due to limitations of the system of voter registration, such as a poorly publicized deadline for completing the registration process.
Apathy, Voters - Audit (Electoral)

A trend among some voters to lack of interest in voting, politics, candidates, and other public issues.

Apparentement
تأليف اختياري في الالتماسات

A device used in some list proportional representation systems which enables separate parties to declare themselves linked for the purpose of seat allocation.

Appropriation
خصيص (الأموال)

Money used to pay for government-approved expenditures.

Approval Voting
تصويت متعدد

A single seat election method, which uses a majority of lower choices. It is a voting procedure in which voters can vote for, or approve of, as many candidates as they wish. Each candidate approved of receives one vote, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

At-Large
واسع النطاق

Candidates for certain types of offices may be elected to represent certain geographic areas within the jurisdiction, such as a district or ward. Only the residents of the district may vote for the office. But if a candidate is elected at-large, he represents the entire jurisdiction, and all voters may vote for the office.

At-Large District
دائرة واسعة النطاق

A district often with sub districts in it or where more than one candidate shares the same district. A mayor may run “at-large” while the city council members run in districts. See Multi Mandate.

Approval Voting
تصويت موحدة

Approval, Approval Voting

Approval is a seeks election method, which uses a majority of lower choices. It is a voting procedure in which voters can vote for, or approve of, as many candidates as they wish. Each candidate approved of receives one vote, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

At-Large District
دائرة واسعة النطاق

Candidates for certain types of offices may be elected to represent certain geographic areas within the jurisdiction, such as a district or ward. Only the residents of the district may vote for the office. But if a candidate is elected at-large, he represents the entire jurisdiction, and all voters may vote for the office.

Audit (Electoral)
المراجعة القانونية

The independent examination of records and activities to ensure compliance with established controls, policy, and operational procedures, and to recommend any indicated changes in controls, policy, or procedures.

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
واسع النطاق

At-Large
Was...
Balanced Budget - Baseline Poll

A financial condition whereby any level of government spends as much money as it takes in, mainly from taxes and other revenue sources.

The official document voters will use to cast their vote, thus making their choices known.

Container into which the voters place their ballot papers.

Also called a ballot measure, referendum or proposition. A ballot initiative is a proposed piece of legislation (a law) that people can vote on.

This is the place where the candidate’s name appears on the ballot. If there are a lot of candidates on the ballot or it is otherwise long, voters will often not read all the way down the list, thus giving candidates with a higher placement a better chance.

The kinds of choices voters can make on a ballot. The range of choices includes: marking a single choice for party or candidate, indicating a set of preferences, or weighting choices by ranking candidates.

Deliberately spoiling the paper ballots of the voters one seeks to Disenfranchise.

See Voting.

A political poll taken to determine as much information about the voters as possible, usually done early in the campaign before there is much political activity. See Political Poll and Tracking Poll.
Bias - Block Vote/ Bloc Vote

A leaning in favor of or against something or someone; partiality or prejudice.

In government, bicameralism is the practice of having two legislative or parliamentary chambers. Thus, a bicameral parliament or bicameral legislature is a parliament or legislature which consists of two Chambers or Houses.

Proposed act not yet passed by Parliament.

Consisting of, or supported by, members of two parties, especially two major political parties.

Official records or certificates of people's births, or where these records are kept. In some countries it is necessary to produce an official copy of one's birth certificate to prove citizenship or voting eligibility.

A blank ballot is simply that no mark is made on the ballot, meaning that the voter did not vote for any of the candidates on the ballot, nor did they vote for or against a proposition on the ballot.

A primary election in which the names of all the candidates for all the parties are on one ballot.

In areas where there is considerable support for the candidate - say six out of ten voters support the candidate - it may benefit the campaign if as many voters as possible go to the polls, regardless of whether or not the supporters have been identified. If everyone in an area is encouraged to vote, then this is considered a “blind pull” to the polls. See GOTV and Pull.

A multi-seat election method. A system of voting in multi-member districts. Each elector is given as many votes as there are seats (e.g., in a legislative

Bias - تعدو

Bicameral Parliament 
برلمان ثنائي التمثيل

Bill
مشروع قانون

Bipartisan
مؤيِّد من حزبين

Birth Registry
سجل الأحوال الشخصية

Blank Ballot
بطاقة على بياض

Blanket Primary
انتخابات أوليَّة شاملة

Blind Pull
السحب الأعمى

Block Vote/ Bloc Vote
اقتراع كتولي

Block Vote/ Bloc Vote
اقتراع كتولي

Metro: "I can identify with my clients because I was a lawyer for a bank before becoming a judge."
Block Vote/ Bloc Vote - Boundary Delimitation

usually a non-partisan board or multi-partisan board set up to oversee the election and make sure that it is conducted fairly. See Election Commission.

A voting system for single or multiple seat elections using rank preference ballots.

The act of seizing and controlling a polling station so that many fraudulent votes may be cast there (this term is used in India).

Managing the booths in the polling station.

The term used to describe the individual, place or position that causes the flow of information or other activities to slow down or halt.

A multi-seat election method. The same as Instant Runoff Voting except runoff cycles stop when number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

Something that marks an electoral limit or border.

The process of drawing boundaries of constituencies for allocation of seats. Also known as Districting.
The budget usually refers to the amount of money you expect to spend on various aspects of the campaign. You should also figure out how many people are needed to accomplish each task and how long each task will take. In this way you will also be budgeting your time and people resources as well.

A type of paper ballot in which the actual voting is done by the central fold of a two-page, pamphlet-like ballot (the two open pages are like a butterfly’s wings; the voting is done where the butterfly’s body would be).

An election not held at the usually scheduled time, often to fill a vacancy in the office. There is often much lower voter turnout in a special or by-election. See Special Election.

A law or rule governing the internal affairs of an organization; or a secondary law.
Structured sequence of tasks leading to the announcement of the successful party or candidates. It provides the key milestone and tasks that must be completed to ensure that the election takes place in an organized manner.

Political activity, including meetings, rallies, speeches, demonstrations, parades, other events, and the use of the media, intended to inform the electorate of the platform of a particular candidate or political party and to gather support.

The calendar used to schedule events and voter contact in the campaign. This should be a master calendar with the final say of what goes on in the campaign (“if it’s not on the calendar, it’s not happening”). Often there is a large, public version (and therefore less complete) hanging on the wall.

Often this is the decision making group in the campaign made up of the key advisors to the candidate; this committee could also provide financial assistance to candidates, in addition to its strategic support. See Campaign Team.

Donations to political campaigns from the candidates' supporters.

A movement to restrict the amount of money that individuals and interest groups can contribute to political campaigns.

Printed campaign material used to inform potential voters about the candidate and persuade them to vote for the candidate.

The person responsible for overseeing the strategic development and the day-to-day running of the campaign. The candidate cannot be the campaign manager.
Campaign Period - Candidate Research

Campaign Period

Mدة الحملة الانتخابية

Period of time, defined by law, within which candidates may conduct campaign activities and election propaganda.

Campaign Plan

خطة الحملة

The written document bringing together the important research, the targeting, the message and the strategy of the campaign. This should be drafted at the beginning of the campaign and provide a step-by-step outline of how the campaign will get to Election Day.

Campaign Professionals

معترفو الحملة

People who have experience working in many past campaigns and are often paid to work on campaigns. These people understand the fundamentals of campaign development, such as raising money, formulating a campaign message, working with the media and targeting and persuading voters.

Campaign Resources

موارد الحملة

The money, time, information and volunteer help a campaign has access to.

Campaign Team

فريق الحملة

Often this is the decision making group in the campaign made up of the key advisors to the candidate. In some cases the campaign team maybe the Campaign Committee plus the campaign staff. See Campaign Committee.

Candidate

مرشح

This is the person running for a particular elected position. The role of the candidate is to meet voters and potential donors to the campaign and persuade them to support the candidate. The candidate cannot be the campaign manager, responsible for the strategic development and day to day running of the campaign.

Candidate Research

بحث المرشح

Candidate research is all the information, both good and bad, that your campaign can put together on your candidate. This is part of the overall research that should be done at the beginning of the campaign. See Research.
Candidate’s Agent - Certifying Election Results

Candidate’s Agent
A representative of a candidate who may be present during the voting and during the count.

Candidate’s Official Agent
A person designated by a candidate to be responsible for the financial management of his campaign, the application of relevant financial rules and the completion of the statutory reports.

Canvass
This is a type of voter contact in which the candidate or volunteers go from one house or apartment to another, talking directly to voters. When done by the candidate, this is one of the most persuasive methods of winning votes, though it is time and labor intensive. aka Door-to-Door.

Casting a Vote
The act of putting a ballot in a ballot box, or the act of recording a preference for a certain motion or candidate.

Categorical Ballot
Form of ballot in which only a single choice for a candidate or party can be made.

Caucus
A meeting of party leaders and/or supporters, the purpose of which may be to show unity for a particular issue (usually held privately) or to select a candidate for office. A group within a legislative or decision-making body seeking to represent a specific interest or influence a particular area of policy. Chiefly British, a committee within a political party charged with determining policy.

Caucus-Style Election
Process whereby small groups select representatives who, in turn, choose people to serve in a given Government.

Central Election Commission
Highest body of electoral administration.

Certifying Election Results
Once the actual election is over there are still a few things that need to occur to finalize it. The election is not completed until after it is certified and elected candidates qualify and take office. Though protections are in place to guarantee a
Certifying Election Results - Choice Transfer

voter’s privacy, the various administrative steps in the election process are public. This means anyone interested in being present for the preliminary count or certification of the count can be, and the public must be provided notice of when these actions will occur so that anyone interested may attend.

A tiny bit of paper that is punched from a ballot using a punch-type mechanical voting machine.

A calling into question, especially a questioning of validity or legality of the election results.

A campaign message must be short, truthful and credible, persuasive and important to voters, show contrast with the opposition, speak to the heart, be targeted and repeated again and again.

An individual who introduces and reviews the management structure that reflects the particular needs of the country in delivering effective electoral administration. Also see Electoral Management Body.

The elimination of a Low Series of candidates before the transfer of surplus votes in a Full Choice election.

The ranked choices made by each elector. The voter would only have a single vote, but the voter would be allowed to rank a list of choices of his preferred candidates. This list would be attached to his single vote. The vote belongs to the first candidate on this list.

The transfer of surplus votes from leading candidates. The single vote cast is transferable at times, in part or whole, to another candidate under certain conditions. After all Surplus Votes have been transferred the Choice Run-Off part of Choice Voting would be put into operation.
Choice Voting - Claims

See Single Transferable Vote.

An individual who is a naturalized or native-born Resident of a state, displays allegiance to that state’s political and legal authority, and who is therefore entitled to the rights and protections of its laws.

A mechanism which enables voters to place legislative issues on the ballot or in front of their legislature.

Reporters interview citizens to attempt to measure their thoughts on political issues during a campaign. Reporters should also try to cover the important issues (as determined by speaking to citizens and conducting focus groups) repetitively, to insure that readers and viewers have a good chance of coming across the coverage.

Educational program aiming to promote political awareness understanding and knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of the citizens.

Civic journalism is an effort to reach out to the public more aggressively in the reporting process, to listen to how citizens frame their problems and what citizens see as solutions to those problems. This information is then used to enrich news stories. Civic journalism is practiced by newspapers and radio and television stations in many parts around the world.

It consists of a range of associations and membership organizations that bring citizens together to act in a political and policy realms.

Complaints regarding decisions or lack of action presented by different electoral actors. See also Challenge, Dispute.
Closed List - Code of Conduct

A form of List PR in which electors are restricted to voting only for a party or political grouping, and cannot express a preference for any candidate within a party list.

Primary election in which only a political party’s members may vote on its nominees.

The alliance of the forces of two or more groups or political parties to form the government.

The transmission of results from a particular polling site to the next level to be collated with other results to give the outcome for a wider area to establish the overall national results.

Association of two or more political parties constituting a joint force for the purpose of contesting an election or forming a government.

An allusion to the rear panels (“tails”) of a gentleman’s frock coat. In American politics, it refers to the ability of a popular officeholder or candidate for office, on the strength of his or her own popularity, to increase the chances for victory of other candidates of the same political party. This candidate is said to carry others to victory “on his coattails.”

A set of general rules of behaviour for political parties and their supporters relating to their participation in an election process, to which parties ideally will voluntarily agree and which may, subsequent to that agreement be incorporated in law. Proclames guidelines of behaviour and standards that are difficult to embody in a statute.
Code of Ethics - Communal Roll

See Code of Conduct.

Calculated for each district by dividing the number of valid votes cast by the number of seats allocated to the district.

These are events in the home of a volunteer or supporter where their friends are able to meet the candidate. These have the advantage of face-to-face contact with the candidate, the most persuasive form of voter contact. Coffees can also be used for small donor fundraising.

A demographic group similar to or having similar interests to another demographic group. For example, teachers may share an interest in improving education with mothers. Teachers and mothers would be collateral groups.

A formal group of experts brought together on a regular or ad hoc basis to debate matters within that sphere of expertise, and with regulatory or quasi-judicial powers such as the ability to license activity in the sphere of activity or to subpoena witnesses. Commissions usually also have advisory powers to government. The organizational form of a commission is often resorted to by governments to exhaustively investigate a matter of national concern, and is often known as a “commission of inquiry.” This legal structure can be contrasted with a council, the latter not enjoying quasi-judicial or regulatory powers.

seats are not only divided on a communal basis, but the entire system of parliamentary representation is similarly based on communal considerations. This usually means that each defined community has its own electoral roll, and elects only members of its “own group” to Parliament.

A register of voters in which ascriptive criteria such as race or ethnicity determine which electors can enroll to vote, and which candidates can be elected, within the wider electoral contest.

العودة إلى ميثاق العمل.

حساب النسبة الإنتخابية لكل دائرة بتقسيم عدد الأصوات على عدد المقاعد المخصصة لكل دائرة.

وتعد وقوع تلك الجلسات في منزل متطوع أو شخص من المؤدين حتى يمكن أصحاب ذلك المضيف من مقابلة المرشح. ومن جوانبها الإيجابية أنها تتيح الاتصال مع المرشح وجها لوجه. كذلك يمكن استخدامها لجمع النبرات من صاحب المساهمين.

وهي مجموعة ديموغرافية مشابهة أو لها مصالح متماثلة مع مجموعة ديموغرافية أخرى. فعلى سبيل المثال، قد يكون للمدارس مصالح مشتركة مع الأمهات لتحسين التعليم. لذلك، يعد المدرسون والأمهات من الجماعات المتضامنة.

مجموعة من الخبراء الرسميين الذين يجتمعون بانتظام لمناقشة القضايا ضمن إطار خبرتهم ومن ثم نقوذ تقليدي أو شبه قضائي مثل القدرة على إعطاء رخصة في إطار تشغيل ما أو استخدام شاهد للمبادل أمام المحكمة. كما أن للجنة نفوذًا أستناداً إلى الحكومة. تلجأ الحكومة للجنة للمحاسبة للموضوع لجهاز تحقيق الشأن من مسألة وطنية، يعرف هذا "لجنة التحقق" من الممكن مثلاً هذا التركيب القانوني مع كلمة مجلس أو التي لا تتمتع بالنفوذ الشباقين القضائي أو التقليدي.

لا تقسم المقاعد على أساس جماعي وحسب، بل نظام التمثيل البرلماني يسمح أيضًا على انتخابات جماعية، ويمكن هذا عادة أن لكل جماعة محددة سجلها/جدولها الجماعي وتنخب فقط أعضاء من "مجتمعهم" للنائب.

هو سجل من المفترض، حيث يحدد المعايير النسوية لكل فرد كمعرق أو الإناث المتخليدين الذين يمكن إدراج أسماهم للاقتراع، فقط من المرشحين الممكن انتخابهم ضمن النافذة الإنتخابية الأولى.
Compensatory Seats - Consolidation of Democracy

The List Proportional Representation seats in a mixed member proportional system which are awarded to parties on the basis of their proportion of the national vote and designed to correct any disproportionality in the results of the elections held in plurality-majority district seats.

Meaning that at least two parties present alternative sets of candidates.

See By-Election.

Voting is compulsory, in some countries, which means that if you do not vote and do not have a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote, you may be fined.

In respect of an election in an electoral district, the date for the commencement of the preparation of the preliminary lists of electors for that election.

These are political divisions within a state, the boundaries of which are drawn-up by the state legislature. One member of the national House of Representatives is elected per district.

An individual with a political philosophy supporting conserving heritage, traditional values or an established social order. He does not reject change but insists that further change be organic rather than revolutionary. See Liberal.

The consolidation of democracy is the process by which democracy becomes so broadly and profoundly legitimatised among its citizens that it is very unlikely to break down. When democracy is consolidated, it has been accepted by most citizens as the only game in town. The consolidation of democracy involves behavioral and institutional changes that normalize democratic politics and narrow its uncertainty. This normalization requires the expansion of citizen access, development of democratic citizenship and culture, broadening of leadership recruitment of a mature civil society and more importantly, political institutionalization.

Consolidation of Democracy

Compensatory Seats

Competitive Election

Complementary Election

Compulsory Voting

Confirmation Date

Congressional Districts (CD)

Conservative

Consolidation of Democracy

Compensation Seats

المقاعد التعويضية

انتخاب تأسيسي

انتخابات متخصصة

تصويت الإلزامي

تأميم تأكيدي

دواير الكونغرس/الدواير العليا

محافظ

دعم الديمقراطية

هي مقاعد لائحة التمثيل النسبي، في نظام الفوضى النسبي المختلط، تمنح إلى الأحزاب على أساس نسبة التصويت الوطني الذي تاتهم. وتهدف إلى إصلاح أي تفاوت في نتائج الانتخابات التي تجري لتحديد مقاعد دوائر نظام الأثارية التعويضية.

نُذر يعني أن حزبين، على الأقل، يعرضان مجموعة بديلة من المرشحين.

انظر الانتخابات الفرعية/الشكلية.

في بعض البلدان، يعتبر التصويت إلزامياً بعبارة أخرى، إذا كنت تملك حق التصويت قانونياً، فإنك مطالبون من التصويت بدون سبب كافٍ. فقد تتألف بغرامة مالية.

في ما يتعلق بالانتخابات في الدوائر الانتخابية، فهو تاريخ البدء، تحضير للاختيار الأولي لهذه الانتخابات.

تقييمات سياسية ضمن الولاية، حيث تُسمى الهيئة التشريعية حديثاً. يتم انتخاب عضو واحد من مجلس النواب الوطني لكل دائرة.

فرد ذو فلسفة سياسية تدعم المحافظة على التراث، أو العقيد التقدمي، أو نظاماً اجتماعياً راسخاً. لا يرفض المحافظ التغيير ولكن يصر أن التغيير يجب أن يكون عضويًا عوض أن يكون ثورياً. انظر ليبرالي.

ترسيخ الديمقراطية هو عملية تشريع الديمقراطية بعمق وصلاية بين المواطنين فتصبح غير قابلة للتفكك. عندما تكون الديمقراطية مُعَرَّة، يوافق عليها معظم المواطنين على أنها اللعبة الوحيدة. يمثل تعزيز الديمقراطية تغييرات سلوكية ومؤسساتية من أجل بناء سياسية الديمقراطية شبيهة عادية وتعليمية الشكل، يتطلب جعل الديمقراطية أمرًا عادياً. يكون دوائر الديمقراطية، وتوزيع قيادات الديمقراطية، وتوزيع قيادات مجمعة مدنياً، والأمم من ذلك، المؤسساتية السياسية.

يتطلب تعزيز الديمقراطية تطور الوعي على القواعد
Consolidation of Democracy - Convention

Consolidation requires that habituation to the norms and procedures of democratic conflict regulation be developed. A high degree of institutional routinization is key to such process.

The concept that the candidate and the party are always working for the next election and do not wait for election time to start delivering a message.

A portion of the population represented by a particular elected leader or organization.

The electoral division or area, or the people in it, which a member of Parliament represents.

A citizen who lives in a legislator’s area of representation.

Set of basic rules by which the government of a State is organized regulating the relationships between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

An administrative or any other objection to activities and decisions of an electoral nature or to the electoral processes and results.

Districts comprised of areas which are geographically adjoined or touching.

Using the campaign message to demonstrate the difference between candidates when they are compared with each other. It is important to give the voters a clear choice. See Credibility and Message.

See Campaign Contributions.

A meeting of party delegates and leaders at any of the three levels of government (federal, state, local) in order to formulate party strategy and tactics while also nominating candidates for political office. In addition, the party platform is written and approved, detailing where the party “stands” on the important issues of the upcoming campaign.

See Campaign Contributions.
Convention Bounce - Credibility

Convention Bounce
An increase in a presidential candidate’s popularity, as indicated by public-opinion polls, in the days immediately following his or her nomination for office at the national convention.

Corrected Voter’s List
After a copy of the preliminary register of voters is publicly displayed at the actual registration centre for claims and objections, corrections are made and the final voter register for each state and each local government area and ward should be displayed for public scrutiny. The final corrected voter list should be produced and made public at a relatively early date, usually specified, before the elections.

Council
The local body that operates from the town hall to raise local taxes and administer local services. A formal group of experts brought together on a regular basis to debate matters within that sphere of expertise, and with advisory powers to government. It can be contrasted with a commission which, although also a body of experts, is typically given regulatory powers in addition to a role as advisor to the government.

Count
The process of sorting, tallying, recording and tabulating of votes cast in an election.

Counting Centre
A centralized premise in which votes from several polling stations are aggregated and counted.

Created Events
Any attempt by the campaign to bring together a large group of people. Generally people brought together by the campaign will already be supporters, but the event may receive press coverage and thereby influence other voters. Created events can also be used to raise funds and energize supporters. See Preset Events.

Credibility
The positive or negative view voters have of a candidate or party. By creating contrast, campaigns can use their message to raise their candidate’s credibility, lower their opponents’ credibility or both. See Contrast and Message.
Cross Cutting Cleavages - Cumulative Voting

Political allegiances of voters which cut across societal cleavages of ethnicity, religion, or class.

Comparing or referencing various responses to questions on a political poll with responses to other questions or demographic information. The real information in a political poll comes from the cross tabs. See Political Poll.

Small groupings within the demographic breakdown that are members of at least two other demographic sets.

A system of voting in which each voter is given as many votes as there are positions to be filled and allowed to cast those votes for one candidate or distribute them in any way among the candidates. It is a system of Proportional Representation in which minorities can ensure their approximate proportional representation by concentrating their votes on a subset of candidates commensurate with their size in the electorate.

نظام تصويت يعطي فيه كل ناخب أصوات بعدد المقاعد التي يجب ملؤها، ويسمح له بالإدلاء بهذه الأصوات في المرشح واحد أو توزيعها بين المرشحين بأية طريقة يريدها. هو نظام تفضيل نسبي، حيث يمكن أن تقسم الأقليات تشيدها النسبية التقريبي من خلال تركز أصواتها على مجموعة فرعية من المرشحين بالتناسب مع جماعتهم.
Dark Horse - Declined Ballot

A usually little-known candidate who unexpectedly wins a party’s nomination.

A tape or disc on which the names of electors may be stored for later use.

Face-to-face discussion between or among candidates on the issues, their qualifications, leadership abilities, and voting records. Debates can occur at all three levels of government, but the most publicized on the national level are debates involving the presidential nominees. These debates are televised, can involve questions from journalists and average citizens, and will reach millions of voters at one time. A presidential candidate who performs poorly on these national telecasts can lose voter support.

An announcement of the result of an election by a district Returning Officer declaring the successful candidate as the elected member.

Votes that are sealed in an envelope signed by the voter. These votes are cast when: the voter casts an absent or postal vote; the voter’s name cannot be found on the electoral roll; the voter’s name is marked off the electoral roll as already having voted.

An elector who has received a ballot and returns it to the deputy returning officer declining to vote, forfeits the right to vote and the deputy returning officer shall immediately write the word “declined” upon the back of the ballot and preserve it to be returned to the returning officer and shall cause an entry to be made in the poll record that the elector declined to vote.

هو مرشح مغمور عادةً، لكنه يفوز بترشيح الحزب له على نحو غير متوقع.

شریط یا قرص توضع عليه أسماء الناخبين لحفظ والاستعمال في وقت لاحق.

مناظرة وجهًا لوجه بين المرشحين حول بعض القضايا، وكفاءتهما، وفوائدهما القيادية، وسجلات الاتفاقات. يمكن أن يجري المناقشات على مستوى الحكومة المحلية، ولكن المناقشات التي تجرب بطرق إعلامية أو تقسم على المستوى الوطني فهي تلك التي يجري بين المرشحين الرئاسيين. وتكون تلفزونية، وتشمل أسلحة من الصحافيين والمواطنين العاديين، وتصد إلى اللاعبين من الناخبين في الوقت ذاته، ومن الممكن للمرشح الذي يؤدي برائته في هذه المناقشات أن يكسر دعم الناخبين.

هو التصريح عن نتيجة الانتخابات من قبل رئيس مكتب الاقتراع/أمانة الانتخاب ويفعل عن المرشح الرابع كالعضو المنتخب.

هي الأصوات التي يدفعها الناخب داخل ظرف مختوم. ويمكن الإبلاغ عنها عند الأصوات عندما يذكر الناخب بأنه طلب الاقتراع غيابيًا أو برديًا؛ عند استحالة التعثر على اسم الناخب في جداول الاقتراع/لوحات الشطب، أو عندما يكون اسم الناخب مشغولاً من جداول الاقتراع/لوحات الشطب على أنه قد سبق وصوت.

عندما يحصل الناخب على بطاقة إقتراع ويعيدها إلى نائب رئيس مكتب الاقتراع رفضًا للإدلاء بصوته عندما يقرر حق التصويت وعلى نائب رئيس مكتب الاقتراع أن يكتب كلمة "رفض الصوت" على الجهة الخلفية لورقة الاقتراع ويضعه في جدول الناخبين، يدلون في سجل الناخبين أن المفترض رفض التصويت.
Delegate - Deputy Returning Officer

A representative, usually chosen either in state caucuses or presidential primaries, who will be responsible for choosing presidential and vice presidential nominees at the national party conventions every four years. Most delegates are pledged to support a specific candidate. A majority of the delegates’ votes at the convention is needed for a presidential candidate to receive the party’s nomination.

See Districting.

Political system where the people share in directing the activities of the state, as distinct from governments controlled by a single class, select group, or autocrat. The definition of democracy has been expanded to describe a philosophy that insists on the right and the capacity of a people, acting either directly or through representatives, to control their institutions for their own purposes.

The process by which the political institutions and the democratic endeavours acquire legitimacy and are accepted on the political scene and by the population in general.

Grouping of the voting population based on age, gender, income, education level, occupation, ethnic background, religion, or any other smaller, identifiable grouping of the whole voter population. It is assumed that voters who identify with a particular demographic group will vote in a similar way.

The Deputy Returning Officer has a very important job at the poll: to ensure that voters are able to arrive at their assigned poll, mark their ballots and depart with ease. His duties are: to manage the poll; administer required oaths; hand out ballots; deposit marked ballots in ballot box if voter requests; supervise the process; close the poll; do the count; fill out the records of the poll; and, on election night, return the ballot box and supplies to the returning office.
Direct Mail Fundraising - Distribution of Preferences

Sending voters something in the mail asking them to contribute to an organization, a political party or a candidate.

Also known as Electronic or Touch-Screen Machines, this type of voting equipment projects the ballot on a computer screen in front of the voter. The voter touches the screen to make selections and cast the ballot.

An electronic voting system in which votes are tallied directly to computer memory. The voting machines typically take the form of an automatic teller machine or a laptop computer.

Elections that are directly made by voters.

Ballot paper issued to a voter who did not place in a ballot box.

Means the release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulging in any other manner of information outside the entity holding the information.

To cause a person to lose the right to vote.

The candidate with the least number of first preference votes (total of Above the Line and Below the Line) is the candidate who is to be excluded. These votes are transferred to the other candidates still in the count.
Distribution Requirements - Door-to-Door

The requirement that to win election a candidate must not merely win a specified proportion of the vote nationally but also a specified degree of support from different regions.

The defined geographic area in which the election will be held and following the election, the winner will represent.

The electoral official responsible for organizing the election in a constituency.

The number of members to be elected in each district.

District research is all the information that your campaign can put together about the district. This is part of the overall research that should be done at the beginning of the campaign. See Research.

Generally, the process of marking off or dividing into districts — for example, into electoral districts for the purposes of electing representatives to a legislature. And it may be a legislature itself that does the districting.

A term that generally refers to a situation where the president is a member of one political party and at least one chamber of Congress (either the Senate or the House of Representatives) is controlled by the opposite party. This situation can also exist at the state level, with one party controlling the governorship, and another controlling the state legislature. Divided government frequently occurs in the U.S. political system.

The term used to describe a ballot paper marked with preferences for candidates without consideration of their policies or abilities. A classic donkey vote is one which records preferences straight down the ballot paper in the same order as the names printed.

See Canvass.

Distribution Requirements

Musterzatatum zuwurf

District

Dairea/Meqawacce

District Electoral Officer/Returning officer

Muaosol dairatet alntarikbat/Muystar Elaamtul alntarikbat

District Magnitude

Ham daira

District Research

Bhat dairaa

Districting

Tahidad dwaat alntarikbat/Tahisim

Divided Government

Alkumah alمقسمة

Donkey Vote

Tasawut atibyi/Tasawut Abmay

Door-to-Door

Mun bawy bawb
Double Ballot System - Droop Quota

See Two Round System.

A ballot that is overvoted with exactly two marks.

Often less important offices are placed lower on the ballot. Often down ballot offices receive less votes due to voter drop off or voter fatigue. See Low Profile Race, Voter Drop Off and Voter Fatigue.

The Droop Quota is the formula that is used to calculate the minimum number, or quota, of votes required to capture a seat in a multi-member constituency using Proportional Representation through the Single Transferable Vote (PR.STV). The quota is ascertained by the following formula: total valid poll/(seats+1)]+1

انظر النظام الانتخابي على دورتين.

هي بطاقة انتخابية موسومة بأصوات أكثر من الحد، بإشارتين ثامن.

غالبا ما تكون أقل مناصب الانتخابات أهمية في أسفل لائحة الاقتراع. غالبًا ما تصور تلك المقاعد التي في أدناه اللائحة على أصوات أقل، لأن صوتي الناخبين عنها أو لتعرضهم للإلهام والندوب. انظر التنافس الدراسي المنخفض أو تناول/انخفاض الناخبين وكذلك إجهاد الناخبين.

تستخدم لاحتساب الحد الأدنى أو الكوتا، من الأصوات الطالبة للفوز بمقددها المتعددة المقاعد باستخدام التمثيل الرقمي من خلال الاقتراع الفردية القابل للتجميل. ويتم التحقق من الكوتا من خلال الصيغة التالية: يقسم مجموع الأصوات على عدد المقاعد، زائد واحد، ثم يضاف واحد إلى الناتج: (عدد الأصوات/(عدد المقاعد+1))+1.
Early Voting - Election Manager

See Advance Voting.

Early Voting

Any coverage of the campaign in the press. It is called "earned media," as opposed to Paid Media, because the campaign will often have to expand a considerable amount of time and energy to receive good coverage.

Earned Media

Expressed opinions by individuals, newspaper and radio editors, and TV journalists, among others, which are intended to persuade viewers and listeners by taking one side of a particular issue.

Editorial

Advertising used during a campaign period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate or a registered political party. It could take various forms such as: flyers, newspapers, magazines, billboards, letters, radio, television, hats, signs and Internet.

Election Advertising

Usually a non-partisan board set up to oversee the election and make sure that it is conducted fairly.

Election Commission

The day on which the voters come to the polls and cast their votes to elect their leaders.

Election Day/ Polling Day

This usually refers to the number of votes needed to win an election. It is assumed that the overall goal of the election campaign is to win a particular office. This is not always the case. Some candidates run for office to promote a particular idea or expose an opponent's record on a particular issue.

Election Goal

A person appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election for an electoral district or province.

Election Manager
**Election Monitoring/Observation - Election Supervision**

Gathering of information regarding an electoral process, by an organization who is not inherently authorized to intervene in the process. Unbiased accredited persons, domestic or international, participate to detect any fraud or cheating in the electoral process.

Accredited person participating in election observation. Can be domestic or international.

An office from which an election is conducted. A single office may conduct elections for up to two districts and a province.

An election opinion survey means an opinion survey respecting an election or a matter of public discussion in relation to the election, including an opinion survey respecting an issue discussed publicly in the election. Methods to obtain such public opinions range from telephone surveys, mailed questionnaires, and specific questions on an election ballot to comments obtained in public meetings.

A qualified person who desires to become a candidate for an official office may become a candidate by petition signed by a specified number of qualified voters of the district from which the candidate seeks election.

The right to vote, to stand as a candidate for election, to form a political party and belong to it, to campaign and to be elected.

Any laws or rules of the election commission that will affect the election in any way.

Activity of overseeing some or all the steps of the electoral process by an independent third party which could be inter-governmental or non-governmental.
Election Writ - Electoral College

Written statement issued by the relevant authority directing the holding of an election on a specified date.

Exercise through which the voters express their choice between competing political parties or candidates; mechanism for choosing representatives and governments.

Electioneering is prohibited within 100 feet of the polling site entrance. Electioneering includes: distributing, wearing, or carrying political literature, posters, banners, or buttons, and soliciting votes.

Person who is eligible and registered to vote. See also Registration of Voters.

Body dealing with the electoral process. See Electoral Management Body.

See Voting Age Population.

See Electoral Commission.

The rules governing the elections in a specific country, in order to establish fair, open and democratic procedures and rules.

When Americans vote for a President and Vice President, they actually vote for presidential electors, known collectively as the electoral college. It is these electors, chosen by the people, who elect the chief executive. In December, after the presidential election, these representatives gather in their states’ capitals and vote for the president and vice president. 270 votes are needed for a president to be elected.

Election Writ - Electoral College

Written statement issued by the relevant authority directing the holding of an election on a specified date.

Exercise through which the voters express their choice between competing political parties or candidates; mechanism for choosing representatives and governments.

Electioneering is prohibited within 100 feet of the polling site entrance. Electioneering includes: distributing, wearing, or carrying political literature, posters, banners, or buttons, and soliciting votes.

Person who is eligible and registered to vote. See also Registration of Voters.

Body dealing with the electoral process. See Electoral Management Body.

See Voting Age Population.

See Electoral Commission.

The rules governing the elections in a specific country, in order to establish fair, open and democratic procedures and rules.

When Americans vote for a President and Vice President, they actually vote for presidential electors, known collectively as the electoral college. It is these electors, chosen by the people, who elect the chief executive. In December, after the presidential election, these representatives gather in their states’ capitals and vote for the president and vice president. 270 votes are needed for a president to be elected.
Electoral Commission - Electoral List/ Electoral Roll

Independent authority responsible for the conduct or supervision of the electoral process.

It is responsible for ensuring the fair and impartial conduct of elections described under the **Electoral Law**, managing the operations of the Commission to achieve objectives and meet all legislative and reporting responsibilities; maintaining accurate electoral rolls; promoting public awareness of electoral practices through education and information programs; conducting research on electoral matters; and providing advice on electoral matters to members of the Legislative Assembly, political parties and others.

Court of justice existing in some countries with the exclusive purpose of handling electoral disputes.

Any dispute related to the electoral process.

Geographic area delimited for electoral purpose. Also - **Constituency**.

Payments made by political campaigns for goods or services intended to influence the outcome of an election.

The law or body of law and regulations governing the electoral process.

A list of names and other relevant details of persons who meet the eligibility requirements to vote. This list is used as a control document during the voting process.

**Electoral Commission**

**Electoral Commissioner**

**Electoral Court**/ **Electoral Tribunal**

**Electoral Dispute**

**Electoral District**

**Electoral Expenditures**

**Electoral Law**

**Electoral List**/ **Electoral Roll**/ **Voter’s List**
The electoral management body is part of the Government, either in the Ministry of Interior or in the local government structure. Essentially, it is the administrative infrastructure required to support the democratic process of elections and selecting the right system for the particular circumstances. The electoral management body oversees administrative arrangements and is assisted by a team of officers and employees responsible for many aspects of electoral process. Election managers are civil servants.

At the direction of the Returning Officer, the electoral manager is responsible for managing and supervising the staff throughout the electorate, in addition to preparing training materials.

Electoral Officials or Polling Officials play a crucial role in an election. The Polling Official must not disclose any election or voting information and must, at all times, be a responsible representative of the Electoral Commission.

The ratio or percentage of voters casting their votes in a specific election.

Steps involved in the preparation and carrying out of an election. It usually starts with the announcement of the election and includes the enactment of the electoral law, the registration of voters and candidates, the campaign, the voting, and the tabulation of votes until the announcement of results.

Can be seen as translating the principles of voting operations into standards that must be consistently achieved through methods and detailed procedures, and may differ throughout the area in which elections for a representative body are held.

See Voters List.
Electoral Sub-District - Emergency Voting

Every part of the Constituency for which one or more Ballot Centers has been designated.

Combination of formulas and mechanisms which provides for the electorate to cast the votes and to translate these votes into seats in the parliament or the legislature.

Court, tribunal or other authority in which a candidate or an elector may dispute the validity of an election, or challenge the conduct of candidates or political parties. In Latin America, for example, this name is often given to the electoral commissions or equivalent authority.

This is the portion of the population able to vote in this election. See Voters.

Electronic media is television and radio organizations that use spoken words and/or video, as opposed to the print media that uses the written word and/or pictures. See Print Media and Mass Media.

EVM is a piece of equipment for use in electing a candidate from among many candidates. The voter is not given a ballot paper when he first enters the polling center, he simply presses a button, or a screen, that register his/her candidate of choice.

Individual who satisfies the legal requirements to participate in the election. Those requirements are usually related to nationality, age, soundness of mind and absence of criminal record.

An emergency voting occurs when a voter cannot go to the polling station on Election Day (or vote in the early voting) for specific reasons that meet the requirements of the country or district regulations concerning this kind of voting. Some countries allow emergency voting if the person is suddenly hospitalized, or becomes seriously ill, or is suddenly called away from home. If this person meets all the requirements, and he cannot be present at the polling station to express his choice through voting, an emergency ballot is issued to the authorized representative of the voter.

شريعة الانتخابات القادرة على الاقتراع في هذه الانتخابات. أنظر الاقتراع.

يشمل التلفزيون والمذياع والوسائل الإعلامية التي تستخدم الكلمة المطبوعة أو الفيديو، مقابل الإعلام المطبوع الذي يستخدم الكلمة المطبوعة أو الصورة الفوتوغرافية. أنظر الإعلام المطبوع والإعلام المصور.

هي آلة تستخدم لاختيار مرشح من بين عدة. لا يعترض الناخب على الإقرار عند دخوله مركز الاقتراع، بل يضغط على الائتمان أو على شاشة الكترونية.

تنسل خياره للمشرف الذي يردده.

الفراد المؤهل بالشروط الأساسية الشرعية للمشاركة بالانتخابات: من ضمنها الجنسية، والعمر، والأخلاق العقلية وغياب السجل الجانبي.

التصويت الطارئ: يحصل عندما لا يستطيع الناخب أن يذهب إلى مركز الاقتراع في اليوم الانتخابي أو يدلي بصوته في التصويت المكرر، لأسباب عتبة تواقيع مع متطلبات البلد أو القضاء، أو المحافظة لقبول هذا النوع من التصويت. تسمى بعض البلدان بهذا التصويت إذا دخل الناخب المستشفى فجأة، أو أصيب بمرض جد، أو إذا لم تستطيعه فجأة بعد عن مفرطة. إذا استسلم هذا الشخص المتطلبات كلهما، ولم يكن بإمكانه التصويت في اليوم الانتخابي، يمكن عندها تزويده الناخب الحل بورقة تصويت طارئ.
## Endorsements - Executive Office

Endorsements are announced or written support for the candidate from opinion leaders or organizations that will influence members of their organizations or other voters to vote for the candidate. See Opinion Leaders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endorsements</th>
<th>Executive Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant voting rights.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion of eligible voters on the voters list.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A door-to-door canvass of all residences in an electoral district for the purpose of identifying and registering all eligible voters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle according to which every person is entitled to one vote (one person, one vote).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demands that voting operations offer equal opportunities for participation to all eligible voters and political participants. Encompasses aspects of Accessibility and Transparency.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The label given to powerful, elite individuals or groups who can make important social, political, and economic policy decisions for the society.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An ethnic voter is one who identifies with a particular national, religious or language grouping. These are generally groupings within the demographic breakdown of the population.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-voting is an election system that allows a voter to record his or her secure and secret ballot electronically. Electronic votes are stored digitally in a storage medium such as a tape cartridge, diskette, or smart card before being sent to a centralized location where tabulation programs compile and tabulate results.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An elected position that oversees the running of the government, such as a mayor, governor or president. See Legislative Office.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endorsements are announcements or written support for the candidate from opinion leaders or organizations that will influence members of their organizations or other voters to vote for the candidate. See Opinion Leaders.

Grant voting rights.

Inclusion of eligible voters on the voters list.

A door-to-door canvass of all residences in an electoral district for the purpose of identifying and registering all eligible voters.

Principle according to which every person is entitled to one vote (one person, one vote).

Demands that voting operations offer equal opportunities for participation to all eligible voters and political participants. Encompasses aspects of Accessibility and Transparency.

The label given to powerful, elite individuals or groups who can make important social, political, and economic policy decisions for the society.

An ethnic voter is one who identifies with a particular national, religious or language grouping. These are generally groupings within the demographic breakdown of the population.

E-voting is an election system that allows a voter to record his or her secure and secret ballot electronically. Electronic votes are stored digitally in a storage medium such as a tape cartridge, diskette, or smart card before being sent to a centralized location where tabulation programs compile and tabulate results.

An elected position that oversees the running of the government, such as a mayor, governor or president. See Legislative Office.
Exhausted Votes - External Voting

A vote becomes exhausted when it needs more choices than it has on its list. This is caused by the voter not making enough choices. It is a vote which has reached the stage where no further preferences can be distributed when distributing preferences.

Assessment of the election results obtained by canvassing voters as they leave the polling stations.

The number of voters you believe will go to the polls and vote in this particular election and this particular race.

See Absentee Voting.
Federal - Focus Group

Federal

Of or describing a constitutionally-delineated union of states having a central government. In the American system, a federal union is ultimately based upon national supremacy but is also a political arrangement that reserves powers to the states.

Federal Election Commission

The Federal Election Commission, an independent regulatory agency, was created by the US Congress in 1975. The duties of the FEC are to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce provisions of the law on the limits and prohibitions on contributions, and to oversee public funding of presidential elections.

Field Director

A person on the campaign staff responsible for organizing the direct contact with the voters by the candidate and the volunteers.

Filing Deadline

The last day and time in which the candidate can file for a particular office.

Final Result

Outcome. It states who is the winner in the elections.

First Past the Post

A voting system under which the winning candidate is the one who wins the most votes—an absolute majority is not required, nor are several candidates chosen. The system is in use at all levels of politics, typically for single-member districts.

First Preference

Preference is an order-ranking, not a number.

Focus Group

A method of sociological research in which a small group of people are brought together and asked a series of questions. The point is to receive qualitative information about public attitudes and test reactions to various messages and information. See Political Polling.
Formal Vote

A vote cast in an election or a referendum that has been marked according to the rules for that election. A vote not marked correctly is an Informal Vote.

Franchise

The constitutional right to vote.

Free and Fair Elections

The definition of a free and fair election is about more than just a smooth technical process, but also includes the respect for basic civil and political rights such as freedom of expression, of movement, of association and assembly; as well as the absence of barriers to the full participation of all citizens, without any form of discrimination; the absence of any form of intimidation; and the compliance overall with the rule of law.

Free List

A form of List Proportional Representation in which voters may vote for a party or grouping and in addition for one or more candidates, whether or not those candidates are nominated by that party or grouping.

Friends of Friends Program

A method of voter contact where volunteers agree to contact their friends either through the mail or on the phone and encourage them to vote for the candidate.

Front-Loading

The practice of scheduling state party caucuses and state primary elections earlier and earlier in advance of the general election. By moving their primaries to early dates, states hope to lend decisive momentum to one or two presidential candidates and thus have disproportionate influence on each party’s nomination.

Front-Runner

In a primary or general campaign, the label given to that candidate who, according to polls and/or political pundits, is in the lead over other opponents and/or is the favorite to be elected.

Full List

List that includes all the candidates.
Any system which consciously attempts to reduce the disparity between a party’s share of the national vote and its share of the parliamentary seats. For example, if a party wins 40 per cent of the votes, it should win approximately 40 per cent of the seats.

Names that are on the register of electors. The full version lists everyone who is entitled to vote.

In which all information on the ballot—e.g. all the offices and candidates to be voted on—are presented on a single sheet of paper or a single screen.

Some election day polling places use full-face ballot, direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines. These voting machines electronically record your choices when you press a button that indicates that you are casting a vote. Election officials print and display the results from each machine after the election day polls close.

An event planned with the goal of raising money for the campaign. Fundraiser may also refer to the person who raises the funds for the campaign by any method.

Any method used to raise money for the campaign.
General Election

Election for national bodies. It is an election in which all members of a given political body are up for election. The term is generally used to refer to elections held for a nation’s primary legislative body, as distinguished from by-elections and local elections.

Geographic Targeting

Grouping the voting population based on where they live and determining patterns within the voting population based on geography. It is assumed that voters who live in a particular area and voted one way in the past will probably vote the same way in the future, barring any extreme change in their situation.

Geopolitical Units

Constituencies normally linked to proportional elections in multi-nominal constituencies.

Gerrymandering

Illegitimate boundary delimitation which gives one political party an unfair advantage.

“Get Out The Vote” or GOTV is the term used to remind voters to go to the polls and vote for your candidate. Often a campaign will expend a considerable amount of effort just before Election Day to make sure that your supporters turn out and vote. See Pull and Blind Pull.

Governance

The act of affecting government and monitoring (through policy) the long-term strategy and direction of an organization. In general, governance comprises the traditions, institutions and processes that determine how power is exercised, how citizens are given a voice, and how decisions are made on issues of public concern.
Government - Gubernatorial Election

System of social control under which the right to make laws, and the right to enforce them, is vested in a particular group in society. There are many classifications of government. According to the classical formula, governments are distinguished by whether power is held by one person, a few, or a majority.

The prime objective of the government of national unity is to make sure the nation will rally behind the elected president.

It is the involvement of common citizens and interest groups in political life, typically at the local level. Grassroots’ activities may include mail, telephone, and media advertising campaigns.

The selection of a governor by a state’s voters.

Government

Government of National Unity

Grassroots

Gubernatorial Election
Hagenbach-Bischoff Formula - High Profile Race

A hanging chad is a chad that did not completely detach from the ballot. When there is a hanging chad, that vote may not be counted correctly.

Terms used to differentiate between campaign funding that is and is not regulated by federal campaign finance law. “Hard money” is a term used to describe donations by individuals and groups made directly to political candidates running for federal office that are regulated by law. “Soft money” describes donations not regulated by law that can be spent only on civic activities such as voter registration drives, party-building activities, administrative costs, and in support of state and local candidates. Soft money contributions may not, by law, be used to directly support a candidate for federal office.

Hare Quota (Rarely Used)

Another term for the Droop Quota.

Hare Quota is used in largest remainder PR electoral systems to determine how seats are awarded. The quota is ascertained by the following formula: total vote divided by the number of seats.

A high profile race is an election campaign for a particular office that voters are interested in and want to hear about. High profile races often receive the most votes. See Low Profile Race.

The Hagenbach-Bischoff Formula is another term for the Droop Quota. It is used in largest remainder PR electoral systems to determine how seats are awarded. The formula is total vote divided by the number of seats.

Hanging Chad

A chad that did not completely detach from the ballot. When there is a hanging chad, that vote may not be counted correctly.

Terms used to differentiate between campaign funding that is and is not regulated by federal campaign finance law. “Hard money” is a term used to describe donations by individuals and groups made directly to political candidates running for federal office that are regulated by law. “Soft money” describes donations not regulated by law that can be spent only on civic activities such as voter registration drives, party-building activities, administrative costs, and in support of state and local candidates. Soft money contributions may not, by law, be used to directly support a candidate for federal office.

Hare Quota (Rarely Used)

Another term for the Droop Quota.

An election campaign for a particular office that voters are interested in and want to hear about. High profile races often receive the most votes. See Low Profile Race.

The Hagenbach-Bischoff Formula is another term for the Droop Quota. It is used in largest remainder PR electoral systems to determine how seats are awarded. The formula is total vote divided by the number of seats.

A hanging chad is a chad that did not completely detach from the ballot. When there is a hanging chad, that vote may not be counted correctly.

Terms used to differentiate between campaign funding that is and is not regulated by federal campaign finance law. “Hard money” is a term used to describe donations by individuals and groups made directly to political candidates running for federal office that are regulated by law. “Soft money” describes donations not regulated by law that can be spent only on civic activities such as voter registration drives, party-building activities, administrative costs, and in support of state and local candidates. Soft money contributions may not, by law, be used to directly support a candidate for federal office.

Hare Quota (Rarely Used)

Another term for the Droop Quota.

An election campaign for a particular office that voters are interested in and want to hear about. High profile races often receive the most votes. See Low Profile Race.

The Hagenbach-Bischoff Formula is another term for the Droop Quota. It is used in largest remainder PR electoral systems to determine how seats are awarded. The formula is total vote divided by the number of seats.

A hanging chad is a chad that did not completely detach from the ballot. When there is a hanging chad, that vote may not be counted correctly.

Terms used to differentiate between campaign funding that is and is not regulated by federal campaign finance law. “Hard money” is a term used to describe donations by individuals and groups made directly to political candidates running for federal office that are regulated by law. “Soft money” describes donations not regulated by law that can be spent only on civic activities such as voter registration drives, party-building activities, administrative costs, and in support of state and local candidates. Soft money contributions may not, by law, be used to directly support a candidate for federal office.
Highest Average Method - Hype

A formula used with list PR systems to translate votes into seats. Party vote totals are divided by a series of devisors, under d'Hondt (by 1,2,3, etc.) or Sainte-Lagué (by 1,3,5, etc.) formula. After each stage the party with the highest average wins the seat. The count continues with party vote totals being divided by sequential numbers until all seats are filled.

Polling questions or analysis focused on which candidates are ahead and which behind.

A question on a political poll that asks, “if the election were held today, would you vote for candidate X or candidate Y.” This type of information is often of little use to the campaign because it does not provide a reason for the decision. The only horserace question that counts is at the polls on Election Day. See Political Polling.

Tracking polls may be taken every day by a candidate, especially during the latter stages of a campaign, so that he or she can see if progress is being made toward victory. Tracking polls can reveal the true nature of the political “horse-race,” i.e., who is in the lead and who is trailing.

Cards handed out to voters by party supporters at voting centres showing how a party or candidate would like voters to fill in their ballot papers.

The rights people are entitled to simply because they are human beings, irrespective of their citizenship, nationality, race, ethnicity, language, sex, sexuality, or abilities. Human rights become enforceable when they are codified as conventions, covenants, or treaties, or as they become recognized as customary international law.

Slang for political ads, e.g., slick, short TV commercials. The term may also refer to exaggerated promises or statements made by a candidate (or his supporters) on the campaign trail.
There are a lot of people who are working on the image of the candidate so that he/she becomes more convincing, in a way or another, for the voters. They often talk about psychoanalyzing the voters or the way a candidate dresses or his public image and the way he/she appears in the media. See Campaign Professionals.

Dealing with matters in a fair unbiased manner. It is the operational expression of neutrality.

Sometimes used in largest remainder PR electoral systems to determine how seats are awarded. The quota is ascertained by the following formula: total vote divided by the number of seats plus two.

An illegal practice which consists of assuming to be someone else with a view to voting in his/her place.

In the context of elections, refers to a voter registration process that includes all groups and categories of citizens.

A candidate running again for an elected position that they already hold.

Candidates for, or members of the legislature, who do not belong to a political party.

A figure which illustrates the collective disparity between the votes cast for parties in an election and the seats in parliament they win.

This vote cannot be used directly, but can be assigned to a registered not-for-profit organisation, including potentially a political party, that uses the voting power as decided by the governance of the organisation.
Indirect Vote - Internet Campaigning

organisation, thus rendering the identity of the vote holder anonymous. The right to assign such votes creates what is called a proxy market, as many organisations can compete to be trusted with it.

Informal Vote

A ballot paper which is either left blank or is incorrectly marked. These ballot papers are excluded from the count and therefore do not contribute to the election of a candidate.

Instant Runoff Voting

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is a voting reform that asks the voter to rank the candidates in order of preference.

Institutional Polls

Institutional polls will be set up in health care facilities (including hospitals and personal care homes) to collect ballots from qualified voters. Institutional polls are held on election day. Institutional Polls are also held in correctional facilities.

Interest Groups

Groups characterized by the will to influence political decision-making, in order to successfully implement certain political goals or values. They tend to be integrated into the political process, although groups may at times employ destructive methods in order to accomplish their goals.

International Election Observers

Observers who come from outside the country where election is being held.

International Polling Station Officer

An international polling station officer supports and assist the presiding officer who is in charge of each station.

Internet Campaigning

Any method of voter contact using computers and communications network. Typically this involves de-developing campaign pages on the World Wide Web. While this can be an inexpensive way to convey a lot of information to those interested in the candidate and the campaign, it is not an effective voter contact method because it does not go to the voters. Instead voters have to go to it.

- a proxy market, as many organisations can compete to be trusted with it.

- اقتراح غير رسمي

- التصويت على أسس ترتيب المرشحين

- الاختيار في المؤسسات

- جماعات المصالح

- مراقبو الانتخابات الدوليون

- موظف دولي في مركز التصويت

- حملة عبر "الإنترنت"
See Remote Internet Voting.

Wrongly marked ballot paper which will not be counted.

It is the annulment of Elections, it may result where: votes of winner inaccurate & may affect result, winner illegally obstructs other candidate from campaigning, winner illegally prevents voters from casting votes freely, and winner uses fraud or other illegal means to affect result.

A person who does not reside in any district, but whose name has been placed on the register of electors.

The geographical area over which a court or government body has the power and right to exercise authority.

A term used to describe the key advisors to a candidate informally organized so as not to attract attention.
An election in which one candidate defeats the other by a very large margin.

The Hare, Droop and Imperiali calculation methods which translate votes into seats within list PR systems. There are two stages to the count. First, parties are awarded seats in proportion to the number of quotas they fulfill (quotas vary depending on which of the three systems are used). Second, remaining seats are awarded to parties on the basis of the left over votes they possess after the ‘quota’ stage of the count. Largest remainder seats are allocated in order of vote size.

Large signs with the candidate’s name on them and the office they are seeking which can be put in on lawns and other areas near roads. Lawn signs are good for increasing name recognition of the candidate and reminding people to vote. See Visibility.

The particular traits people are looking for in those that represent them.

May be responsible for drafting new election laws and procedures and interpreting the law for the national body to determine its position on legal challenges and complaints.

Voters legally excluded from registering and voting on grounds including such conditions as property ownership, wealth, literacy, race, gender and mental fitness.

Structure of electoral processes consisting of the constitutional rules, electoral laws, complementary regulations and explicit or implicit codes of conduct.
Legislative Amendment - Limited Vote

**Legislative Amendment**
A revision or change brought to the electoral law of a country or to relevant regulations, in accordance with a formal procedure.

**Legislative Assembly**
See Lower House.

**Legislative Council**
See Upper House.

**Legislative Office**
A legislative office is a position on an elected council, congress or other body dealing with legislation. See Executive Office.

**Legislative Recall**
A revision or change brought to the electoral law of a country or to relevant regulations, in accordance with a formal procedure.

**Legislature**
An officially elected or otherwise selected body of people vested with the responsibility and power to make laws for a political unit, such as a state or nation.

**Legitimate Government**
All free and legitimate government is based on governing the interactions between sovereign individuals through mutually accepted contracts.

**Level Playing Field**
The act of giving equal opportunities to different participants or players.

**Liberal**
Today, an individual who generally believes in the power of an activist government to resolve society’s many domestic problems, protect the interests of the poor, and improve the lives of individual citizens through specific governmental programs.

**Limited Vote**
Conducted in multi-member districts and winning candidates are those who poll most votes. Voters have fewer votes than seats to be filled, but more than one vote.

**Traduction**
A révision ou changement apporté à la loi électorale d’un pays ou à des réglementations pertinentes, en accord avec une procédure formelle.

**Conseil législatif**
Voir la Chambre inférieure.

**Conseil législatif**
Voir la Chambre supérieure.

**Poste législatif**
Un poste législatif est un poste dans un conseil, un congrès ou autre corps traitant de la législation. Voir l’Office exécutif.

**Réévaluation législative**
Un révision ou changement apporté à la loi électorale d’un pays ou à des réglementations pertinentes, en accord avec une procédure formelle.

**Legislature**
Un organe législatif est un organisme élu ou autrement désigné composé de personnes investies de la responsabilité et du pouvoir de légiférer pour un au niveau politique, tel qu’un État ou un État-nation.

**Gouvernement légitime**
Tout gouvernement libre et légitime est basé sur le gouvernement des interactions entre des individus souverains par des contrats mutuellement acceptés.

**Égalité des chances**
L’acte de donner des opportunités égales à différents participants ou joueurs.

**Libéral**
Aujourd’hui, une personne qui généralement croit que le pouvoir d’une gouvernance activistique peut résoudre les nombreux problèmes domestiques de la société, protéger les intérêts des pauvres et améliorer la vie des citoyens individuels par des programmes gouvernementaux spécifiques.

**Vote limité**
Conduit dans des districts à plusieurs membres, et les candidats gagnants sont ceux qui ont obtenu le plus de votes. Les électeurs ont plus de votes que de sièges à remplir, mais plus d’un vote.
List of Electors - Lower House

It is the preliminary list of electors, supplementary list of electors or the official list of electors, as the context requires.

In its most simple form List PR involves each party presenting a list of candidates to the electorate, voters vote for a party, and parties receive seats in proportion to their overall share of the national vote. Winning candidates are taken from the lists. Lists can be open, closed, or free.

A voter contact method in which volunteers go door to door to leave campaign literature at each house or apartment of voters in the district. Because they do not knock on the doors and talk to voters, this is a less persuasive method of voter contact than door to door, but can be accomplished a lot quicker. See Campaign Literature and Door-to-Door.

A voter contact method in which volunteers hand campaign literature to potential voters gathered in any large groups, such as workers leaving a factory, commuters waiting for a train or shoppers at a market. See Campaign Literature.

An election held in a particular locality to choose between candidates or to vote on ballot measures.

See Operations Division.

An election campaign for a particular office that voters are not that interested in and are likely to ignore. See High Profile Race and Down Ballot.

in a bicameral legislature, the branch which generally has a larger membership and is thereby more representative; also called lower chamber. Example: The House of Representatives is the “lower house” in the US federal government.

It is the preliminary list of electors, supplementary list of electors or the official list of electors, as the context requires.

In its most simple form List PR involves each party presenting a list of candidates to the electorate, voters vote for a party, and parties receive seats in proportion to their overall share of the national vote. Winning candidates are taken from the lists. Lists can be open, closed, or free.

A voter contact method in which volunteers go door to door to leave campaign literature at each house or apartment of voters in the district. Because they do not knock on the doors and talk to voters, this is a less persuasive method of voter contact than door to door, but can be accomplished a lot quicker. See Campaign Literature and Door-to-Door.

A voter contact method in which volunteers hand campaign literature to potential voters gathered in any large groups, such as workers leaving a factory, commuters waiting for a train or shoppers at a market. See Campaign Literature.

An election held in a particular locality to choose between candidates or to vote on ballot measures.

See Operations Division.

An election campaign for a particular office that voters are not that interested in and are likely to ignore. See High Profile Race and Down Ballot.

in a bicameral legislature, the branch which generally has a larger membership and is thereby more representative; also called lower chamber. Example: The House of Representatives is the “lower house” in the US federal government.
Mail - Margin of Error

A voter contact method in which campaign literature is sent through the post to voters. Depending on the type of voter file or mailing list you have, this literature can be targeted to voters based on geography or demographics. See Campaign Literature and Voter File.

Registration through the postal system. An alternative to enumeration or registration centres, or as a supplement.

Fifty percent of the votes cast plus one vote. This as opposed to a simple plurality of the vote or the most votes cast. See Plurality.

An electoral formula in which the winning candidate must receive more than half (50% + 1) of the votes cast.

The most common method for the second round of voting in a Two-Round System is a straight “run-off” contest between the two highest vote-winners from the first round - this we term a majority-runoff system.

The uneven distribution of voters between electoral districts.

A command or an authorization given by a political electorate to its representative. The period of time that this representative stays in office is also called mandate.

A public declaration of intentions (as issued by a political party or government).

Where a single party wins less than 50 per cent of the valid votes, but an absolute majority of the parliamentary seats.

In a public opinion poll, the plus or minus range within which the final percentages may fall due to sampling error—what the true results would be if everyone in the population were actually interviewed (a sample is only a very small portion of the entire population).
Margin of Error - Media Access

For example, if a poll predicts that 60 percent of the vote will be awarded to Candidate Jones with a + or - figure of 3, then the voting percentage Jones may actually receive on election day could be anywhere from 57% to 63%.

The number of votes needed to assure that the candidate wins the election. See Targeting.

Marks, mostly made with a pen or pencil, that a scanner would detect. They may be deliberate marks for a listed candidate; they may denote the presence of a possibly valid write-in vote; or they may be erasures and stray marks that have been erroneously identified by the machine as “votes.”

Where alternate candidate/party appear on the same ballot and the voter places only a single mark to mark his or her preference.

Mark-Sense voting systems, often called Optical Scanners, have preprinted ballots consisting of the candidates’ names or the ballot issues with an empty box, circle, rectangle, or arrow next to them. The voter must fill in the circle or box with a black marker and feed the ballot through a computerized vote-tabulating machine. The computer recognizes the darkest mark on the ballot as the correct vote and records it.

Any independent press that has a large audience.

Public money that is given to presidential candidates in an amount equal to the amount that they have raised privately.

Chief elected official of a city.

A question or proposal submitted in an election to obtain an expression of the voters’ will on the matter.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that privacy, security and legal issues concerning the Internet and other forms of electronic communication, including e-mail, voice-mail, electronic fax, bulletin boards, television access channels,
Media Access - Mixed Electoral System

electronic subscription services, and any other electronic communication forums are addressed, and that a policy is formally established to define appropriate use of these tools.

The geographic area reached by the mass media in a particular region. Often a newspaper will have a circulation within a city and its metropolitan area and a television station can only reach a certain area.

Any person elected to parliament.

A limited body of truthful information that is consistently conveyed by the candidate and the campaign to provide persuasive reasons for voters to vote for the candidate.

The exercise in which the campaign views what will be said in the election by us about us, by us about them, by them about us. This should be a fairly complete picture of everything that will be said during the campaign and should provide the campaign with a clear contrast with their opponents.

An election for seats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives that occurs during a presidential term of office — that is, two years into the four-year presidential term. The results are sometimes interpreted as a popular referendum on that president’s performance for the first two years of his term. Midterm elections determine some members of the U.S. Senate and all members of the House of Representatives, as well as many state and local officials.

A combination of the relative advantages of the large proportional systems and of the majority systems.

A system in which the choices expressed by voters are used to elect representatives through two different systems: Proportional Representation system and Plurality Majority system. The main aim of a mixed system is to address the distortions caused by the First Past the Post system.
Mixed Member Proportional System - Multi-Seat Election

A Mixed Electoral System in which all the voters use the plurality/majority system to elect some of the representatives to an electoral body. The remaining seats are then allocated to parties using proportional representation so as to compensate for disproportionality in their representation.

See Mobile Voting Centre.

Mobile voting facilities are provided to assist electors in such places as hospitals and nursing homes to cast a vote. The voting is mobile because election officials move around the premises, taking portable ballot boxes and voting compartments directly to patients.

One of the three resources in every political campaign, the others being time and people. It is important to determine how much money each activity in the campaign will cost and plan for it. See Campaign Resources and Budget.

Negative, often personal, frequently inaccurate or exaggerated attacks directed at the political opposition by both candidates and political parties.

An election district in which more than one candidate will win the positions sought in this campaign.

An electoral district in which electors elect more than one representative in the legislative assembly. Electors of such an electoral district generally have as many votes as there are seats in the electoral district.

System in which more than two parties compete for control of government. Most of the world’s democracies are multi-party systems.

A ballot that is overvoted with three or more marks.

Is the election of two or more seats of the same type - like the election of lawmakers.
Name Recognition - Non-Blank Vote/Ballot

Identification of the candidate’s name by the voters. Often voters will know little about the candidates and therefore vote for the name that they recognize. It is important for candidates to have the voters associate their name with their message because only the name will appear on the ballot.

Political advertisements that attack a candidate’s opponent, often trying to destroy the opponent’s character.

A political environment aiming at having and supporting free, fair, and credible elections.

A voting system is neutral if the system does not favor any alternative. Although it may seem obvious that voting systems should be neutral, some are designed specifically not to be neutral in order to promote government stability or ensure that a decision is made. In fact, many systems that have tie-breaking rules that do not employ a random choice violate neutrality. For example, parliamentary voting systems in which "yea" and "nay" votes are taken generally favor the nay side in the event of a tie. Thus they are biased towards the nay alternative and are not neutral.

The process by which candidates indicate their intention to compete in an election within specified time. Often subject to submission of a required number of signatures and/or to the payment of a deposit.

The person that a political party chooses to represent it in a general election. This is called Nomination.

A non-blank vote ballot is simply that-a mark is made on the ballot-the voter voted for any of the candidates on the ballot. See Blank Vote.
The term refers to international organizations that are not associated with any government. Examples include many religions that cross borders, international humanitarian aid organizations such as the International Red Cross, sporting organizations such as the International Olympic Committee, organizations that work to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide such as NDI for International Affairs, and many scientific, business, educational, and other professional organizations.

When something relates to all political parties or no particular political parties. A non-partisan election is one where candidates are not affiliated with particular parties and their party is not listed on the ballot. A non-partisan organization is one that associates with either no political parties or many different political parties, avoiding the association with one particular party.
Observation-(Watch) - Opinion Leaders

The process that sees that the election is being carried out in accordance with the law and whether candidates, parties and votes are able to participate on an equal basis. Short-term observation encompasses voting day and the count. Long term observation encompasses monitoring and assessing holistically the entire election process. A guarantee of the honesty of the electoral process.

Observation-(Watch)
مراقبة

Office
مكتب

Ommitted Voter
استبعاد إداري

One-Area Election
انتخابات المنطقة الواحدة

Open List
قائمة مفتوحة

Open Primary
انتخابات أولية مفتوحة

Operations Division
قسم العمليات

Opinion Leaders
قادة الرأي

Endorsements
إذاعات

Observation-(Watch)
 springfox

Law
حائزة

Office
مكتب

 omitted Voter
استبعاد

One-Area Election
انتخابات المنطقة الواحدة

Open List
قائمة مفتوحة

Open Primary
انتخابات أولية مفتوحة

Operations Division
قسم العمليات

Opinion Leaders
قادة الرأي

Endorsements
إذاعات

Law
حائزة

Office
مكتب

 omitted Voter
استبعاد

One-Area Election
انتخابات المنطقة الواحدة

Open List
قائمة مفتوحة

Open Primary
انتخابات أولية مفتوحة

Operations Division
قسم العمليات

Opinion Leaders
قادة الرأي

Endorsements
إذاعات
Opinion Poll/s - Ordinary Vote

A survey conducted between and before elections to get a projection on the outcome of the elections.

These are other candidates running for the same office and on the same ballot as your candidate.

A political party or an organized group opposed to the group, party, or government in power.

Opposition research is all the information, both good and bad, that your campaign can put together on all of the viable opponents. This is part of the overall research that should be done at the beginning of the campaign. See Research.

Optical scan paper ballots are used for mail ballot voting, emergency voting and challenge voting. You should follow the written voting instructions that accompany these ballots.

Means that the voter is not required to rank all the candidates.

A ballot where the voter is required to indicate preferences amongst the various candidates or parties by numbering their respective names, in declining order.

A vote cast, at a voting centre, in the elector’s home district, on election day.
Paid Media - Party Representation

Paid Media
الإعلان المدفع أو الإعلام
بأجر

Any advertisements the campaign pays to have placed in the mass media, such as television, radio or newspapers.

Palm Card
بطاقة الكف

A standard piece of campaign literature used to describe the candidate and provide a reason to vote for him. This should provide a clear summary of the campaign message. See Campaign Literature and Message.

Parallel System
نظام متوافِر

"Parallel system" is where the ward and proportional representation voting systems run completely separately and there is no attempt to integrate the two sets of votes.

Parliament
مجلس النواب

The political assembly in which elected representatives debate and vote upon proposed laws. The word 'parliament' comes from 15th century English, and from a French word meaning ‘talking place’.

Partisan
حزبي

Anything relating to the political party. When an election is partisan, it means that party affiliation matters and may be listed on the ballot. See Non-Partisan.

Party Observer
مراقب الحزب

See Party Agent.

Party
حزب

A group of people who join together because they share many ideas about what the government should do.

Party Agent/ Proxy
وكيل حزبي/مندوب/معتمد حزبي

A political party agent is appointed by its party and accredited by the NEC for electoral observation. Agents of political parties also include signatories of a party assigned to carry out specific affairs of the party. Also known as Proxy.

Party List
قائمة حزبية/لائحة حزبية

This is a method of voting where the voters vote for a party and the party selects the candidates based on the percentage of the vote it receives.

Party Representation
تمثيل حزبي

A representative of a party who may be present during the vote and the counting of the votes. This term may also apply to a national or regional officer of a party.
Party List Proportional Representation System - Phone Bank

See List Proportional Representation.

This is the information for past elections on how many votes or what percentage of votes candidates from a particular party or similar ideology received. If there are similar candidates or multiple elections, the various percentages can be averaged together to find an overall performance.

The result of election administration authorities developing a new list of eligible voters prior to each election.

It is one in which the election administration authorities devise a new voters list for each new electoral event, without intending to maintain or update this list for the future. Periodic lists often are used for only one electoral event, and are normally, although not necessarily, created just prior to the election. Also known as periodic register.

The extent to which a particular group of voters do not vote in a consistent way.

Voters who do not vote in a consistent way, voting for one candidate and not voting for a candidate with a similar ideology or from the same party in either the same election or in two consecutive elections. It is believed that these voters do not identify with a particular party or ideology and can be persuaded by a clear message.

Their major role is to appeal decisions.

A place where there is a number of phones and volunteers able to come together as a group to phone voters.
Phoning - Political Efficacy

A method of voter contact in which volunteers call voters on the phone. This method can be used to persuade voters, identify supporters and turn out the vote near Election Day.

The program, often written, that the political party or candidate will address if and when they are elected. This is not a campaign message. See Program.

Is a direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. This may be the adoption of a new constitution, a constitutional amendment, a law, or a recall of an elected official or simply a specific government policy. The referendum or plebiscite is a form of direct democracy.

The most votes cast in a given election. This differs from a majority of the votes cast or 50% plus one vote. See Majority.

They are the winner-take-all systems we most often use to elect officials to our local, state, and federal legislatures. These systems all require the winning candidate to garner either a plurality or a majority of the votes.

Each voter votes for one candidate, and the candidate with the plurality (most votes) wins, regardless of whether that candidate gets a majority or not.

An organization of 50 or more people that is created to raise money for favored political candidates and is registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). A PAC may be formed by any group, including businesses, labor unions, and special interest bodies.

The belief on the part of the individual citizen that he or she can “make a difference” by influencing the political system through such activities as voting, protesting, giving campaign contributions, working on a campaign, or even running for political office.
| **Political Funding**  
| Tribunal político |
| Distribution and spending of amount of money that political parties can spend on running their election campaigns. |

| **Political Landscape**  
| Área política |
| The environment in which the campaign will be waged, particularly in reference to the various people involved in politics in the area. |

| **Political Participation**  
| Participación política |
| Right of all adults of either gender to vote; the right to form or participate in activities of political parties; and the right to free, fair, and regular elections for legislative bodies. |

| **Political Party**  
| Partido político |
| A group of people with similar ideas or aims, some of whose members nominate as candidates at elections in the hope that they will be elected to parliament. |

| **Political Party Campaign**  
| Campaña electoral |
| Political activity, including meetings, rallies, speeches, demonstrations, parades, other events, and the use of the media, intended to inform the electorate of the platform of a particular political party and to gather support. |

| **Political Platform**  
| Plataforma política |
| a document stating the aims and principles of a political party. |

| **Political Players**  
| Jugadores políticos |
| Those people involved in politics in the area and who may influence the campaign one way or another. |

| **Political Polling**  
| Estadística política |
| Scientific, quantitative sociological research based on randomly selected voters used by the campaign to determine the opinions of the voters and used to provide strategic planning information. |

| **Political Rallies**  
| Cinco político |
| Any kind of public activities or demonstration organized by a political party to support its program or its candidates. |

| **Political Rights**  
| Derechos políticos |
| The right of people to participate in the political life of their communities and society such as by voting for their government. |

| **Politician**  
| Político |
| A person who is running for office or has won an election and is already in office. |
Polling Station Officer

A place where votes are cast; also refers to a survey to assess public opinion or to forecast an election.

The people dealing directly with the voters.

See Voting.

Building with 2 or more Polling Stations. See Poll.

Person who works at a polling station on election day. Also known as poll clerk.

The particular location where voters go to cast their ballots.

A physical installation where the electors of a polling division can cast their vote. See Polling Division.

A place where voters go to cast their votes from a particular electoral district.

The polling station assistant signs for the numbered ballot box at their station and the ballot papers on which votes are to be recorded. He conducts polling such as: ballot papers are only issued to persons with a valid matriculation card; prior to issue each ballot paper is stamped with the official stamp; and the matriculation card of each voter is appropriately marked so as to clearly indicate that a vote has been recorded in the election for which a ballot paper has been issued.

Where a voter is blind or affected by other disability that voter may vote accompanied by another registered voter of her/his choice, or that voter may be assisted by a polling station officer.

When a voter is blind or affected by other disability that voter may vote accompanied by another registered voter of her/his choice, or that voter may be assisted by a polling station officer.

See Election Day.

A small geographic unit within a constituency, for which a specific number of electors and for which a list of electors is established for one or more polling sites for the purpose of voting on polling day.

See Voting.

The particular location where voters go to cast their ballots.

A physical installation where the electors of a polling division can cast their vote. See Polling Division.

A place where votes are cast; also refers to a survey to assess public opinion or to forecast an election.

The people dealing directly with the voters.

The polling station assistant signs for the numbered ballot box at their station and the ballot papers on which votes are to be recorded. He conducts polling such as: ballot papers are only issued to persons with a valid matriculation card; prior to issue each ballot paper is stamped with the official stamp; and the matriculation card of each voter is appropriately marked so as to clearly indicate that a vote has been recorded in the election for which a ballot paper has been issued.

Where a voter is blind or affected by other disability that voter may vote accompanied by another registered voter of her/his choice, or that voter may be assisted by a polling station officer.

When a voter is blind or affected by other disability that voter may vote accompanied by another registered voter of her/his choice, or that voter may be assisted by a polling station officer.

See Voting.

See Poll.

See Polling Division.

See Polling Station.

Polling Site

Site

Polling Station

Center

Office

Division

Day

Place

Site

Station

Station

Assistant

Station Officer
Poll-Site Internet Voting - Precinct Captain

An election in which Internet voting stations are made available at conventional polling sites where access and security are controlled as they are today. These could also include schools and libraries where Internet access is already available.

A person or company that researches public opinion.

The vote that is actually cast by each individual citizen in an election.

Postal voting is another way of casting a vote during an election and is available to registered electors on request, in some countries; some other countries have special requirements to allow postal voting, like handicap or other specified reasons. Instead of going to a polling station the ballot paper is sent direct to the address of the voter's choice. The voter marks his choice and send the ballot to a specified Election Office.

Large signs with the candidate’s name on them and the office they are seeking which can be put in windows and on poles. Posters are good for increasing name recognition of the candidate and reminding people to vote. See Visibility.

A possible person who backs a politician or a political party etc.

Power sharing arrangements are a potential means of solving self-determination disputes. They aim to promote practices and institutions, which, in one way or another, aim to satisfy all major ethnic groups in society. In this way such arrangements attempt to reconcile the potentially divisive principles of self-determination and democracy in ethnically divided states.

The smallest district in relation to elections. Cities and counties are divided into precinct polling districts.

An individual responsible for organizing the party activity, voter contact program and Election Day operation in a particular precinct. Sometimes these people are volunteers and sometimes they are elected. See Precinct.
Precinct Information - Preset Events

Whatever information can be gathered about a particular precinct, such as voter list, turnout from the last election, and returns from the last election.

An indicative sort and count of votes following the primary vote count. The primary vote count and national distribution of preferences are both conducted at the polling booth once polling has closed.

A system in which votes counted are used to redistribute the preferences of the electors to establish a winner (in alternative vote and single non transferable vote systems).

See Alternative Vote.

Election prior to general election in which no party affiliation is used, and conducted to reduce the number of candidates.

Lists of electors for which the data is gathered by enumerators or at registration centres, normally done on the basis of a small geographic unit during or immediately preceding the election period. Provides a list of electors that ensures that voters are able to confirm that they are duly registered to vote in the next or pending electoral event.

Result that precedes or is introductory or preparatory. Coming before and usually forming a necessary prelude to something else.

The preselection process encompasses the setting up of a pre-selection panel, the assessment of candidates, interviews with candidates and the setting up of a so-called “briefing” report by the pre-selection panel.

Any event or large grouping of voters organized outside the campaign, where the campaign can go and meet voters. These can be parades, conventions, or debates. These are often outside the control of the campaign. See Created Events.
Press - Primary Elections

Anyone working for a mass media organization and who is writing or otherwise commenting on the election campaign.

An event planned by the campaign to which the press is invited with the purpose to providing information about the campaign or on a particular issue.

A pack of information developed by the campaign and giving to the press to provide them with more information about the candidate and the campaign. A press packet often includes a candidate biography, a photo of the candidate, a copy of the press release announcing their candidacy or the speech, press releases outlining various position papers, copies of good press the campaign has received, and copies of campaign literature.

An opportunity for the press to ask the candidate questions and receive answers.

Information provided by the campaign to reporters and others in the mass media presenting the candidates position on a particular issue or event. Press releases are often written in the form of a news story.

This is the individual in the campaign organization responsible for dealing with the mass media. See Mass Media and Press.

Essentially, a “nominating election.” In a presidential primary, the voters express a choice among competing presidential contenders. In the general election, the final choice of office-holder is determined. Party affiliations are used.

Primary election is the term used in many countries for the elections which will select the two parties presidential nomination. When the primary elections start in a specific month of election year then it is called the “primary season”. See Primary.
Print Media - Provisional Vote

Print media are independent newspapers and magazines or any other part of the mass media using the written word and/or still pictures, as opposed to the electronic media that use the spoken word and/or video. See Electronic Media and Mass Media.

Is the ability of a person to control the availability of information about and exposure of him- or herself.

Refers to any non-governmental activity or sphere of control.

A campaign that has a strategy and a written plan to carry that strategy out. This campaign sets the agenda in the election and knows what to expect from their opponents. See Reactive Campaign.

See Adjudication.

The candidate or party’s program is what they say they will do concerning various issues important to the voters. A program is not a message. See Message and Platform.

Properly related in size or degree or other measurable characteristics.

Parties having representation in a legislature in proportion to the number of their voters in the election.

A vote for a third party candidate (who is not likely to win) that is meant to show displeasure with the mainstream candidates or parties.

A code of correct conduct related to the procedures of an Election.

See Tendered Ballot.
Proxy - Punch-Card Voting

See Party Agent.

Of or having to do with the people as a whole.

Funds provided by the government to reimburse expenses incurred by candidates and political parties to seek election.

Session at which citizens present their views on a specific matter to a government body.

Making sure that voters who support the candidate go to the polls and vote for the candidate on Election Day. The campaign should do everything short of "pulling" the voters to the polls. Generally only supporters who have been identified previously are encouraged to vote, except in areas of extreme support.

See GOTV and Blind Pull.

With punch card ballots, voters create holes in prepared ballot cards to indicate their choices.
Questions and Answers.
See Press Q&A.

The qualities that are in a person and that might qualify him/her in the process of demonstrating whether he/she is capable of fulfilling specified requirements to run for elections, or to register to vote in an election...

Results obtained through a quick count process used where the collation of the overall results can take a lengthy period.

A number or percentage, especially of a certain gender or ethnic group or minority or unprivileged people, constituting a required or targeted minimum so that the targeted groups fill the assigned number of seats.
Race - Referendum

An election campaign is often compared to a running race in which candidates “run for office.” See Running for Office.

Formal approval by voters or other persons of proposed policies, laws, or decisions.

A campaign that spends its resources responding to the political landscape and what happens during the campaign. This is a campaign that lacks a plan, is always behind and cannot set the agenda. See Proactive Campaign.

A recheck is a normal procedure undertaken by an election manager before a preference count is conducted. All ballot papers are re-examined and counted again. Scrutineers are entitled to be present and should be aware of any corrected figures before a preference count is commenced. (This term should not be confused with the term “Recount”).

A second or further count of votes in an election.

A new arrangement of the electoral divisions in a state or territory with the result that the boundaries of some existing divisions are changed.

The process by which individual states redraw district boundaries to adjust for changes in the population.

The redrawing of electoral boundaries to ensure that there are, as near as possible, equal numbers of voters in each electorate.

The legal process of submitting to the voters for their approval or rejection of proposed state of local laws or constitutional amendments.
Register of Electors - Representative Democracy

It is a database of citizens who are qualified to vote. It contains basic information about each person - name, address, sex and date of birth.

In order for a political party to become registered it should submit its legal papers to the government. Once the information on the application is verified and accepted, the party becomes eligible to be registered.

Registering the names of eligible electors and relevant information on a list of electors.

A setting where registration takes place in a face-to-face setting.

The act of enrolling political parties and candidates to participate in the elections, on the basis of eligibility criteria and submitted signatures and deposits.

The act of entering voters in the voters lists. Also known as Enrolment.

A rejected ballot is one that has made its way into the ballot box but has been rejected because it was improperly marked, or was not marked at all when a mark was required. The most common criteria to reject a ballot are: ballot with no mark; ballot with mark for more than one candidate/political party/option when only one was supposed to be chosen; ballot marked with a type of pen or pencil other than the one provided at the polling station; unofficial mark according to the law; unusual marks; ballot marked so the voter could be identified; or ballot marked in a location prohibited by legislation (outside the circle, etc...).

A government in which the adult citizens of the country vote to elect the country’s leaders. These elected leaders make the governmental decisions.
Research - Running for Office

All the information that will influence this election that your campaign can find. This may include information about the election rules, the district, the voters, past elections, this election, your candidate and any viable opponents. Research is the first step in putting together a campaign strategy and plan.

Someone who lives at a particular place for a prolonged period or who was born there.

Information as to the successful candidate or candidates or party or parties.

A returning officer is responsible for the preparation and conduct of an election in a specific electoral district.

The ability to use language effectively. The undue use of exaggeration or display. The art of influencing others through the use of words. The use of rhetoric is common among politicians.

Every decision to do something is a decision not to do something else. Every campaign has a limited number of each of the resources, time, money and people, and must make decisions about how to use those resources. It is therefore important to have a written campaign plan which lays out the strategy.

The party that becomes the administrative and policymaking center of the government.

The act of campaigning for elective office.

In certain systems, an election held to determine a winner with a majority of the votes when none of the candidates received a majority in the first round. The top two candidates who received the most votes in the first round will run in the run-off election.

An election campaign is often compared to a running race in which candidates “run for office.” See Race.
**Salvaged Votes - Semi-Proportional System**

*The votes of a dropped candidate. These votes are not dropped, they are salvaged and transferred to the next choice on each ballot.*

A small part of the results intended as representative of the whole.

*The person in the campaign responsible for keeping the campaign calendar, the candidate’s calendar and responding to invitations.*

A person appointed by a candidate to observe voting and the scrutiny and count of ballot papers to satisfy their candidate that the poll was conducted strictly in accordance with the law.

*The checking and counting of ballot papers to ascertain the result of an election.*

Another term for division; used because the candidate elected then has a seat in parliament.

In the context of elections, the process of distributing the seats in a legislative assembly to political parties or candidates on the basis of the number of votes they have obtained.

See **Two-Round System**.

*Principle of voting that ensures that no one will know which political party or candidate the voter has chosen.*

*Semi-PR systems are those which inherently translate votes cast into seats won in a way that falls somewhere between the proportionality of Proportional Representation (PR) systems and the majoritarianism of plurality-majority systems.*
Silent Elector - Single Member Plurality (SMP)

An elector who believes that having their name on the roll will place their personal safety or that of members of their family at risk can apply to have their address not shown on the roll.

An election district in which one candidate will win the position sought in this campaign.

An electoral district which sends a single person to represent it in a governmental assembly. The point is made that this system may not lead to as broad representation of minority interests as systems by which districts select several people to represent them.

As in the Single Member Plurality (SMP) or the First Past the Post (FPTP) system, the country, in the Single Member Majority System (SMM), is also divided into constituencies and each constituency returns only one member to the National Assembly. However, the winner must obtain an absolute majority of votes in the constituency in the (SMM). In other words, he/she must obtain more votes than the combined votes of all the other candidates. If no candidate is able to secure an absolute majority of votes, then either a re-run is provided for in which the permitted number of candidates from the earlier poll are allowed to contest or some other arrangement is put in place to ensure that the winner in the end does command an absolute majority.

Single Member Plurality (SMP) works with single-member districts, meaning geographically-defined districts that send one representative to a legislature. Voters in a given district cast one vote for their favorite candidate, and the candidate receiving the most votes is elected. This system commonly works in a series of two elections, in which primaries are held to determine a nominee from each major party, followed by a general election that pits the primary winners against one another.

Silent Elector

مقترع صامت

Single Mandate

ولاية واحدة/عهد واحد

مقعد مفرد

Single Member District

دائرة ذات عضو واحد

دائرة فردية

Single Member Majority System

 نظام أكثري يمقعد واحد

Silent Elector - Single Member Plurality (SMP)
Single Non-Transferable Vote - Sound Trucks

A voting system under which each elector has one vote even though there are multiple seats to be filled. Those candidates with the highest vote totals fill these positions.

Only one political party is legally allowed to hold effective power. Although minor parties may sometimes be allowed, they are legally required to accept the leadership of the dominant party. This party may not always be, however, identical to the government, although sometimes positions within the party may in fact be more important than positions within the government.

Uses multi-member districts, with voters ranking candidates in order of preference on the ballot paper in the same manner as the Alternative Vote. Preference marking is optional and voters are not required to rank-order all candidates. If they wish they can mark only one. After the total number of first preferential votes are counted the count begins by establishing the quota.

The election of one person from a field of candidates.

This is a short phrase that voters may remember to identify the candidate or campaign. A slogan is not a message.


In the reporting of TV news, a very short statement, lasting no more than a few seconds, that tries to convey a specific idea, image, or perception that will attract the viewing audience’s attention.

Automobiles with loudspeakers attached to them that go through areas of the district broadcasting a message. These are considered part of the visibility method of voter contact.

Single Non-Transferable Vote
اقتراح/صوت فرد غير قابل للتحويل

Single Party System
نظام الحزب الواحد

Single Transferable Vote
اقتراح/صوت فرد قابل للتحويل/التصويت على الخيارات/الدورة الحاسمة للاختيارات

Single-Seat Election
انتخابات المقعد الواحد

Slogan
شعار

Soft Money
الأموال اللمبنة/ المال المشتر

Sound Bite
ترقب موجز بليغ/اللغة الصوتية

Sound Trucks
عبارة صوت إعلامي

System that permits the candidate with the most votes to be elected even though there are more than one seat to be filled. The candidates with the highest vote totals fill these positions.

Only one political party is legally allowed to hold effective power. Although minor parties may sometimes be allowed, they are legally required to accept the leadership of the dominant party. This party may not always be, however, identical to the government, although sometimes positions within the party may in fact be more important than positions within the government.

Uses multi-member districts, with voters ranking candidates in order of preference on the ballot paper in the same manner as the Alternative Vote. Preference marking is optional and voters are not required to rank-order all candidates. If they wish they can mark only one. After the total number of first preferential votes are counted the count begins by establishing the quota.

The election of one person from a field of candidates.

This is a short phrase that voters may remember to identify the candidate or campaign. A slogan is not a message.


In the reporting of TV news, a very short statement, lasting no more than a few seconds, that tries to convey a specific idea, image, or perception that will attract the viewing audience’s attention.

Automobiles with loudspeakers attached to them that go through areas of the district broadcasting a message. These are considered part of the visibility method of voter contact.

System that permits the candidate with the most votes to be elected even though there are more than one seat to be filled. The candidates with the highest vote totals fill these positions.

Only one political party is legally allowed to hold effective power. Although minor parties may sometimes be allowed, they are legally required to accept the leadership of the dominant party. This party may not always be, however, identical to the government, although sometimes positions within the party may in fact be more important than positions within the government.

Uses multi-member districts, with voters ranking candidates in order of preference on the ballot paper in the same manner as the Alternative Vote. Preference marking is optional and voters are not required to rank-order all candidates. If they wish they can mark only one. After the total number of first preferential votes are counted the count begins by establishing the quota.

The election of one person from a field of candidates.

This is a short phrase that voters may remember to identify the candidate or campaign. A slogan is not a message.


In the reporting of TV news, a very short statement, lasting no more than a few seconds, that tries to convey a specific idea, image, or perception that will attract the viewing audience’s attention.

Automobiles with loudspeakers attached to them that go through areas of the district broadcasting a message. These are considered part of the visibility method of voter contact.
Special Ballot - Sponsor

A ballot paper for electors unable to attend a polling station. See also Postal vote, Advance Voting and Absentee Voting.

Special Election

An election not held at the usually scheduled time, often to fill a vacancy in the office. There is often a much lower voter turnout in a special or by-election. See By-Election.

Special Voting

Facilities for electors who on voting day are unable to access a normal voting station in the electoral district in which they are registered to vote.

Speech

Usually prepared remarks given orally to a group of people or a large audience.

Spin Doctor/Spin

A media adviser or political consultant employed by a campaign to ensure that the candidate receives the best possible publicity in any given situation. For example, after a debate between the presidential candidates, each candidate's "spin doctors" will seek out journalists so they can point out their candidate's strengths in the debate and try to convince the press, and by extension the public, that their candidate "won" the debate. When these media advisers practice their craft, they are said to be "spinning" or putting "spin" on a situation or event.

Spoilt Ballot

Ballot paper wrongly marked or damaged which may be replaced by a polling official.

Sponsor

An external funding source that enters into an agreement with a person or an organization to support research, instruction, public service, or other sponsored electoral activities. Sponsors include private businesses, corporations, foundations and other not-for-profit organizations, universities, and all levels governments.

A ballot paper for electors unable to attend a polling station. See also Postal vote, Advance Voting and Absentee Voting.

An election not held at the usually scheduled time, often to fill a vacancy in the office. There is often a much lower voter turnout in a special or by-election. See By-Election.

Facilities for electors who on voting day are unable to access a normal voting station in the electoral district in which they are registered to vote.

Usually prepared remarks given orally to a group of people or a large audience.

A media adviser or political consultant employed by a campaign to ensure that the candidate receives the best possible publicity in any given situation. For example, after a debate between the presidential candidates, each candidate's "spin doctors" will seek out journalists so they can point out their candidate's strengths in the debate and try to convince the press, and by extension the public, that their candidate "won" the debate. When these media advisers practice their craft, they are said to be "spinning" or putting "spin" on a situation or event.

Ballot paper wrongly marked or damaged which may be replaced by a polling official.

An external funding source that enters into an agreement with a person or an organization to support research, instruction, public service, or other sponsored electoral activities. Sponsors include private businesses, corporations, foundations and other not-for-profit organizations, universities, and all levels governments.

A ballot paper for electors unable to attend a polling station. See also Postal vote, Advance Voting and Absentee Voting.

An election not held at the usually scheduled time, often to fill a vacancy in the office. There is often a much lower voter turnout in a special or by-election. See By-Election.

Facilities for electors who on voting day are unable to access a normal voting station in the electoral district in which they are registered to vote.

Usually prepared remarks given orally to a group of people or a large audience.

A media adviser or political consultant employed by a campaign to ensure that the candidate receives the best possible publicity in any given situation. For example, after a debate between the presidential candidates, each candidate's "spin doctors" will seek out journalists so they can point out their candidate's strengths in the debate and try to convince the press, and by extension the public, that their candidate "won" the debate. When these media advisers practice their craft, they are said to be "spinning" or putting "spin" on a situation or event.

Ballot paper wrongly marked or damaged which may be replaced by a polling official.

An external funding source that enters into an agreement with a person or an organization to support research, instruction, public service, or other sponsored electoral activities. Sponsors include private businesses, corporations, foundations and other not-for-profit organizations, universities, and all levels governments.
Stay on Message - Suffrage

When a candidate or campaign continues to deliver the same message or theme at every opportunity. Often the opponent will try to pull the campaign off their message but it is critical not to let this happen.

A meeting, or short series of meetings, of the candidate and any key advisors that will gather the necessary information and determine the overall strategy of the campaign. This strategy must be written down in the form of a campaign plan. See Campaign Plan.

The method, written into the Campaign Plan, of what the campaign will do from this point to election day to elect the candidate to the chosen office.

This is a nonscientific poll, taken in such a haphazard fashion that any results are not based upon the sample being truly representative of the population. An example would be TV broadcasters asking members of the viewing audience to call in with a “yes” or “no” vote regarding a particular issue or question. The callers are unlikely to represent all of the important segments/characteristics of the population as a whole.

A standard speech delivered by a candidate on many occasions. This speech should contain the campaign message as its core and be repeated at every opportunity.

Substitution of Voter

When a voter goes to cast a vote instead of another voter. It will be uncovered and proven by the revision of ballots and the comparison between the signatures and thumbmarks appearing in the Book of Voters and those appearing in the List of Voters with Voting Records used on election day.

The right to vote or the Franchise.
Supporters - Swing Voter

Voters and others who have been identified by the campaign as people who will vote for the candidate or party in this election.

Are votes that a candidate may have in excess of the quota of votes in a Single Transferable Vote Election.

Anyone speaking on behalf of the candidate or otherwise officially representing the candidate.

The difference between the performance of a candidate or party at one election in comparison to a previous election.

An election district has a history of voting for different parties or different types of candidates in the same or consecutive elections. Because the district can “swing” back and forth between different parties or candidates, it is often important to spend campaign resources to persuade voters in these districts to ensure that the campaign wins them. See Persuadability.

Precincts within a particular election district that have a history of voting for different parties or different ideologies in different elections. The campaign may want to put extra resources into these districts to ensure that the candidate wins them. See Precincts.

Voters who are not tied to a particular political party or ideology, but have a history of voting for different parties or different ideologies in the same or different elections. These voters are considered persuadable and likely to be reached by a good campaign message or other information. See Persuadable Voter.
Tabulation of Votes - Tendered Ballot

The process of compiling the result of a count at the election.

A procedure or set of maneuvers engaged in to achieve an end, an aim, or a goal.

Location where election results are displayed on election night.

The form used for counting of ballots.

Voters whom the campaign believes are most likely to be persuaded by the campaign’s message and thus provide the margin of victory. See Message and Margin of Victory.

The process of dividing the voting population into smaller groups and determining which of the votes you want to concentrate your message on to provide the margin of victory. See Demographic Targeting and Geographic Targeting.

Telephone voting allows people to call different telephone numbers to indicate preference for different options, or a voter might call one number and indicate a preference by pressing buttons in a menu system. Its main drawback is the difficulty in verifying the identity of the voter and in permitting only one vote per person. Its chief advantage is the ease in getting people to participate.

Person appointed to help count votes.

Ballot, where the right of the voter is disputed or in doubt. Tendered votes are placed in envelopes, provisionally accepted, and subject to verification before being accepted for the count.

عمليّة الجمع لنتائج العد في الانتخابات.

هي الوسيلة التي تم اختراعها واستغلالها في تنفيذ هدف الحملة.

هو مركز إصدار نتائج الانتخابات عُنْبَيِّة الانتخابات.

الاستمرارة المعتمدة لعد بطاقات الاقتراع.

وهو من الناخبين الذين تراهم الحملة قابلين لإلتقاع بالرسالة ويضيعون هامش الفوز وتحقيق هدف الحملة.

وهي عملية تقسيم جموعالناخبين إلى مجموعات أصغر، وتحديد أي منها ينبغي أن تركز عليها رسالة لتتوفر هامش الفوز، الهدف الاستهداف السياسي والاستهداف الجغرافي.

يسنح هذا الاقتراع للمشاركة في الإدلاء بأرقام هواتف مختلفة، لتفعيل أو تقليل الاقتراحات المختلفة أو موافقة على المترشح المختار برمث أي من الأرقام المذكورة. هذا النظام هو وسيلة مفيدة للنواب وإعطاء صوت واحد.

هو الشخص المعين لمساعدة في فرز الأصوات.

الورقة التي تقتضى حق المترشح في جدل أو شك. يجري وضع هذه الورقة في ظرف، وهي مقبولة مؤقتًا، ولكنها عرضة للتأكد منها قبل قبولها للإدلاء.
**Term Limits - Touch-Screen Electronic Voting Machines**

**Term Limits**

Are restrictions on the number of terms a board member or elected official may serve in the same post.

**Third Party**

Any political party that is not one of the two parties that dominates politics and that receives a base of support and plays a role in influencing the outcome of an election.

**Threshold**

The starting point for a new state or experience.

**Ticket**

A list of candidates for election nominated by a political party or group; a slate and/or the declared principles or policies of a political party or group.

**Ticket Splitting**

See Vote Splitting.

**Time**

One of the three resources every political campaign has, the other two being people and money. It is important to determine how much time each campaign activity will take and plan for it. Unlike the other two resources, time is the same for each of the campaigns involved in an election, but not all campaigns use their time as effectively. See Campaign Resources.

**Top Up**

It is when the second votes of a Mixed Member Proportional election are used to balance up the proportionality of the district elected members to the popular proportionality.

**Touch-Screen Electronic Voting Machine**

You register your choices electronically by touching a screen and record them when you touch Cast Vote.
Town Meeting - Two-Round System

An informal gathering of an office-holder or candidate for office with a group of people, often local, in which the audience raises questions directly to the officeholder or candidate.

A political poll taken later in the campaign to determine how the campaign’s message and the various methods of voter contact is affecting undecided and persuadable voters. See Baseline Poll and Political Poll.

In Politics, transparency is the opposite of privacy; an activity is transparent if all information about it is freely available.

An opening in a computer code through which a program can be altered. In the case of Direct recording electronic voting system, such an alteration could falsify the results of an election.

This is the portion of the electorate that actually goes to the polls and votes. This can be referred to as a percentage or as a real number.

An election system under which elections may be run in two stages. In electoral districts where no candidate wins an absolute majority of the votes on the first ballot (or first round of voting), a second election is held, with the contest restricted, say, to the two candidates who won the most votes on the first ballot, or only to those candidates who won more than a specified share of the vote. After the second ballot, the candidate with the most votes wins.
Without favor or blame, objective.

In politics, the candidate who is viewed as trailing his or her opponent and/or is not favored to win the election. However, underdogs have been known to overcome the odds, especially in state and local races.

Registered voter not affiliated with any major political party; informally known as “independent”.

Having a single legislative chamber.

The right of all the eligible voters to participate in the electoral process without discrimination based on gender, property rights, ethnicity, residence, race, etc...

When a ballot in excess of the number required which has not been used during the election.

It is the Legislative Council, one of the two houses of State Parliament. Usually referred to as the Senate. This house is generally less powerful than the lower house. It is often called the ‘house of review’ as this is one of its major functions.
**Valid Vote - Vote Counting Officer**

A vote cast in an election, marked according to the rules. Also known as **Formal Vote**.

The principles considered desirable by the voters.

From the Latin term veto means “I forbid”. The vested power or constitutional right of one branch or department of government to refuse approval of measures proposed by another department, especially the power of a chief executive to reject a bill passed by the legislature and thus prevent or delay its enactment into law.

The voter contact method in which the candidate’s name is advertised on signs, t-shirts, cups and just about anything else. If seen enough this can often raise the candidates name recognition but it does little to persuade voters with a campaign message.

A supporter of the candidate who generally spends some of their time helping the campaign without being paid a salary.

A person on the campaign staff responsible for recruiting and scheduling volunteers.

Choice by an elector about party, candidate or issue, expressed through a ballot at an election or a referendum.

Vote Counting Assistant is the person who assist in counting votes.

Vote Counting Officer can visit premises and conduct the count for, or assist, the Returning Officer, either manually on paper, or with computers.
**Vote Counting/ Verification - Voter Fatigue**

The Vote Counting topic area deals with the actual counting of votes, which requires accuracy, speed and security.

**Vote Shifting**

When voters vote for one candidate in one election and vote for a candidate from a different party or with a different ideology in the next election. Voters who shift their votes are considered to be persuadable with a campaign message. See **Persuadability**.

**Vote Splitting**

When voters vote for one candidate and vote for a candidate from a different party or with a different ideology on the same ballot in the same election. Voters who split their votes are considered to be persuadable with a campaign message. See **Persuadability**.

**Vote Buying**

Vote buying is a widespread phenomenon. It is usually viewed as a purely economic exchange in which the voter sells his or her vote to the highest bidder.

**Voter**

This is any person who is able to vote in the election for a particular office. See **Electorate**.

**Voter Drop Off**

Less important or lower profile races often receive less votes than higher profile races because often voters do not know about the race, do not know the candidates and do not feel comfortable voting for candidates they do not know.

**Voter Education**

Program to instruct the population about the electoral process. See **Civic Education, Voter Information**.

**Voter Fatigue**

The tendency of voters not to vote for candidates they do not know or in races they do not care about. Voter fatigue is greatest in low profile or down ballot races. See **Voter Drop Off, Low Profile and Down Ballot**.
A database that contains at least the name and address of all the voters in a district. An enhanced voter file may have other information about the voters such as their phone numbers, their ages, and whether or not they have a history of voting in the past. Political parties and candidates may further enhance the voter file by finding out who supports the candidate or what issues are important to voters. The only way to do this is to ask voters directly.

This includes: Voter Registration Fraud, Absentee Ballot Fraud, Illegally or Improperly “Assisting” Others To Vote Their Absentee Ballot, and Vote-Buying.

Voters often care about things that affect them directly, such as their job or the education of their children. They often care less about policy issues that they have little control over. Candidates need to speak to the voters about things they care about.

The act or process of registering a citizen to vote.

The percentage or number of people who voted. The percentage can be based on voter registration or on voting age population.

VVPAT stands for “Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail”. It is a kind of “vote receipt” printed by an electronic voting machine showing the elector his/her vote as it is being acquired by the electoral system. The VVPAT is retained by election official as the record of votes cast for purposes of an audit and any recount. VVPATs are to be considered the official records of the vote in case of recounts. A huge request of voting machines providing VVPATs is coming

A database that contains at least the name and address of all the voters in a district. An enhanced voter file may have other information about the voters such as their phone numbers, their ages, and whether or not they have a history of voting in the past. Political parties and candidates may further enhance the voter file by finding out who supports the candidate or what issues are important to voters. The only way to do this is to ask voters directly.

This includes: Voter Registration Fraud, Absentee Ballot Fraud, Illegally or Improperly “Assisting” Others To Vote Their Absentee Ballot, and Vote-Buying.

Voters often care about things that affect them directly, such as their job or the education of their children. They often care less about policy issues that they have little control over. Candidates need to speak to the voters about things they care about.

The act or process of registering a citizen to vote.

The percentage or number of people who voted. The percentage can be based on voter registration or on voting age population.

VVPAT stands for “Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail”. It is a kind of “vote receipt” printed by an electronic voting machine showing the elector his/her vote as it is being acquired by the electoral system. The VVPAT is retained by election official as the record of votes cast for purposes of an audit and any recount. VVPATs are to be considered the official records of the vote in case of recounts. A huge request of voting machines providing VVPATs is coming
from the public opinion. The main point is that VVPATs give the voter more confidence about the electronic vote, and permit to recount votes in case of doubts.

Provides voters with summary information on the voting ways used in their local polling places with pointers about the voting technology and how to vote successfully. May also cover how to investigate and get help when something goes wrong with the voting process.

See Electoral List.

The number of votes contained in the ballot boxes.

Record list available in electoral districts containing information about all voters and their signatures. A voting book for general voting must be based on the list of voters for the voting area for which it is to be used, showing the name, residential address and voter number of each voter and providing a space opposite this information for the voter’s signature.

A booth in which a person can cast a private vote.

Voting for more than one candidate that voters believe in.

This is what the public does to choose the politician they want to run their area or country. Also known as polling or balloting.
Representation by an area of a city that is divided into precincts.

It is a vote that does not end up on a winning candidate. Some of these will be the exhausted votes but most are caused by poor election methods and/or poor design features of the entire election system being used.

In the simplest kind of election, the candidate who receives the most votes wins, or “takes all.” Most elections, whether of government officials or in the private sector, are decided on a winner-take-all basis. The winner is the person who receives a plurality of at least one vote.

Writ is a document commanding an electoral officer to hold an election and contains dates for the close of rolls, the close of nominations, the polling day and the return of the writ.

See Absentee Voting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>terms</th>
<th>notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>مصطلحات</td>
<td>ملاحظات</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
terms
مصطلحات

notes
ملاحظات
National Democratic Institute
P.O.Box 13-5320
Chouran 1102-2030
Beirut, Lebanon

tel  961 1 805 632
fax 961 1 805 633
website www.ndi.org
email arabictranslation@ndi.org