

Instructions for Election Officials

(Rev. 02/17/20 – Roy Minet)

BAWV (Best/Alternate/Worst Voting)

(Recommended as the best voting method to use)

Instructions to Election Officials:

1. Disqualify any ballots which have more than one box marked for the same candidate. Disqualify any ballots which have more than one candidate marked “Best.” Disqualify any ballots which have more than one candidate marked “Alternate.” Disqualify any ballots which have more than one candidate marked “Worst.”
2. Total the “Best” votes for each candidate; call this total “B.” Total the “Alternate” votes for each candidate; call this number “A.” Total the “Worst” votes for each candidate; call this total “W.” Add “B” plus “A” plus “W” for each candidate; call this sum “V.” Compute one plus one percent (rounded to the nearest number of voters) of the largest “V” that any single candidate received; call this number “MV.”
3. Eliminate any candidate that has a “V” less than “MV.” Upon eliminating each candidate, unmark the “Best” “box” for any ballots which have selected the candidate being eliminated as “Best.” For any ballot on which the “Best” box is being unmarked and for which an “Alternate” is marked, change the “Alternate” candidate to “Best.”
4. Total the “Best” votes for each candidate; call this total “B.” Subtract “W” from “B” for each remaining candidate; call this difference “N.”
5. If only one candidate remains and its “N” is positive, declare that candidate the winner. If either no candidates remain or one remains, but with zero or negative “N,” there is no winner.
6. Eliminate the candidate which has the lowest positive (or most negative) “N.” (If there should be a tie for lowest “N,” then eliminate the tied candidate which has the lowest “V.”) Unmark the “Best” “box” for any ballots which have selected the candidate being eliminated as “Best.” For any ballot on which the “Best” box is being unmarked and for which an “Alternate” is marked, change the “Alternate” candidate to “Best.” Go back to step 4.

AADV (Approve/Approve/Disapprove Voting)

(The second best voting method, but very simple)

Instructions to Election Officials: Disqualify any ballots which have more than one box marked for the same candidate. Disqualify any ballots which have more than two candidates marked "Approved." Disqualify any ballots which have more than one candidate marked "Disapproved." Total the "Approved" votes for each candidate; call this total "A." Total the "Disapproved" votes for each candidate; call this total "D." Add "A" and "D" for each candidate; call this sum "V." Eliminate any candidate whose "V" is less than one plus one percent (rounded to the nearest number of voters) of the largest "V" that any single candidate received. Subtract "D" from "A" for each remaining candidate; call this difference "N." Eliminate any candidate which has a zero or negative N. The remaining candidate that has the largest "N" is the winner.

NOTES (which apply for both BAWV and AADV):

1. User-friendly electronic voting supervision could easily prevent spoiled ballots and therefore eliminate the need to check for and disqualify these during the tally process.
2. It is possible, though unlikely, that there could be no winner; that is, no remaining candidate with a positive N. (Candidates with such "high negatives" would simply not be nominated, especially if BAWV or AADV were used during the nominating process!) It would, of course, be easy to provide a rule to crown the "least awful" candidate the winner. But it doesn't seem wise to elect a candidate that more people dislike than like. Therefore, if there should be no winner, another election should be held. No candidate that received a negative N should be allowed to run again. This is the equivalent of the common practice of always having the option to vote for NOTA (None Of The Above). It is a defect of Plurality, IRV, Approval and virtually all other voting methods that they are unable to sensibly handle this situation (they will instead force the election of a candidate disliked by a majority of voters).
3. Because it is at least a possibility that all candidates on the ballot could be pretty "lackluster," the winning vote total could be fairly low (very sad). Conceivably, a write-in (or other obscure) candidate could then achieve a winning score. Therefore, it is required that a candidate must have received at least a "reasonable" amount of voter interest in order to qualify. Therefore, the total number of voters weighing in on each candidate (either for or against) is totaled. Any candidate is eliminated that has a total less than one voter plus one percent (rounded to the nearest voter) of the highest total that any single candidate received.