

Counting Rules for Ranked Ballots (Multiple Winners)

Simply Voting uses a variation of STV (Single Transferable Vote) applying the Droop quota ($(\text{number of valid votes} / \text{number of winners} + 1) + 1$) and not applying any redistribution of surplus votes. When there is only one winner, the question is equivalent to IRV (Instant-runoff voting, a subset of STV).

Ranked ballots are counted as follows:

1. On the first round of counting, each option shall receive a first preference vote for each vote indicating it as first preference.
2. Should an option meet the quota of first preference votes after any round, it shall be declared elected.
3. If no option is elected, then the option with the fewest number of first preference votes shall be eliminated from the question. Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, then among these, the option with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the option with the fewest number of original first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes et cetera. Should a tie still persist, an option shall be eliminated by random draw. Multiple options are never eliminated simultaneously.
4. When an option is eliminated, all first preference votes for that option shall be replaced by the vote's first preferred option that is not yet eliminated. All second preference votes for that option shall be replaced by the vote's next preferred option that is not yet eliminated, and so on.
5. This procedure of eliminating option(s) and redistributing first preference votes shall continue until the winner is elected or the number of options left equals the number of winners (this may occur due to exhausted ballots, and those options shall be declared elected).