

FVC Langley Town Hall - Results

Introduction

Event date: August 27, 2016

Location: United Church of Langley

The Langley Townhall meeting drew about 50 people.

Program

- Begin with the National Anthem, then presentations
- Presentation on First Past the Post Voting by Timothy Jones
- Presentation by MP John Aldag on proceedings of the Electoral Reform Committee
- Presentation by Craig Henschel (Alumnus of BC Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform)
- Presentation by Antony Hodgson PEng UBC on alternate systems

The event began with singing of the National Anthem. Timothy Jones gave a presentation on First Past the Post voting, illustrating how votes are rendered ineffective, and subsequently wasted, and how FPTP distorts the makeup of parliament.

John Aldag, MP for Langley City - Cloverdale gave an update on the Electoral Reform Committee, its mandate and progress to date, and answered many questions.

Craig Henschel talked about the BC CA (Citizens Assembly) and described how the CA discovered the values that were expressed by the public and how the CA strived to satisfy these interests in their choice of an election system.

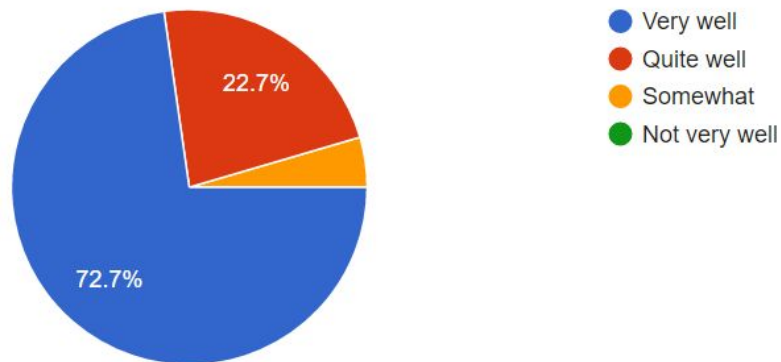
Antony Hodgson spoke on the new model emerging now, the Urban Rural Proportional Representation system.

A questionnaire was passed out at the intermission and 22 people completed it. After the event, the results were compiled into a report consisting of a number of charts. The results indicate that respondents understand the present voting system well, but consider it to be very unfair. They show concern that a party may form a majority government on only 40% of the vote. Respondents reject the strategic voting and feel that the number of seats allocated should reflect how people vote. Voting should be easy, and should carry equal influence to elect representatives. There is an overwhelming desire to change to a more fair and proportional system. The results follow:

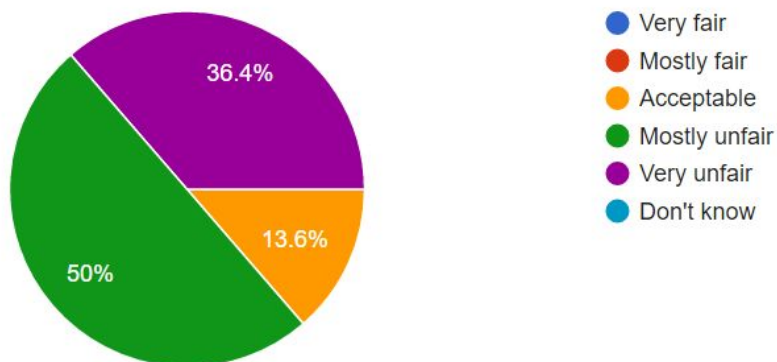
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PART I: General Considerations

How well do you feel you understand Canada's existing First-past-the-post system and how governments are elected under that system? (22 responses)



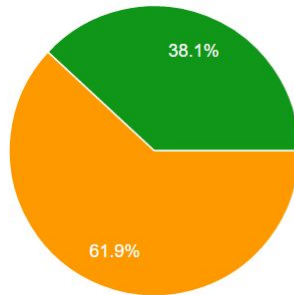
How would you describe your judgement about the fairness of that system to all voters and political parties? (22 responses)



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There is no requirement for the winning party to have majority voter support to form a majority government under our current First-past-the-Post system. A share of 40% or less usually suffices. Which of the following best summarizes your views about this?

(21 responses)



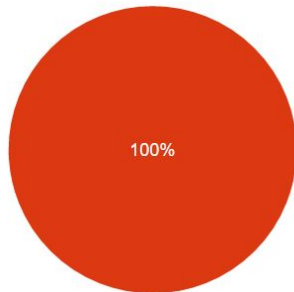
- This is a very good thing because it makes it easier to form majority governments
- That is how our system works, but this is neither good nor bad. I think minority governments are fine but...
- It is problematic because it gives an unfair amount of power to the winning party
- It is profoundly undemocratic. The share of seats should be equal to the share of votes

Part II - Principles and Values

Effectiveness and legitimacy

Which is preferable to you?

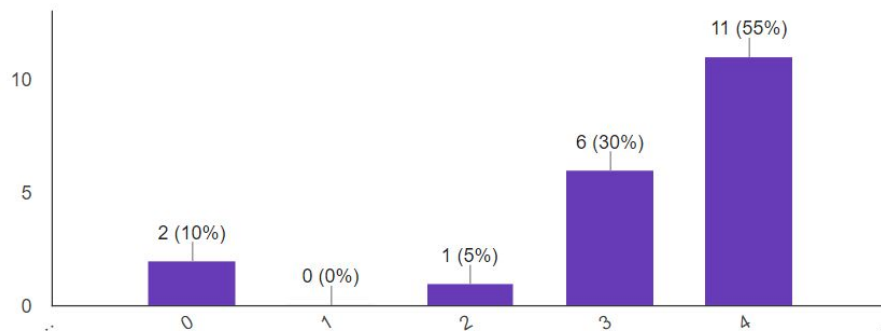
(22 responses)



- A government with a majority able to pass legislation without the support of other parties
- A government that is obliged to consult with other parties and make compromises
- Don't know

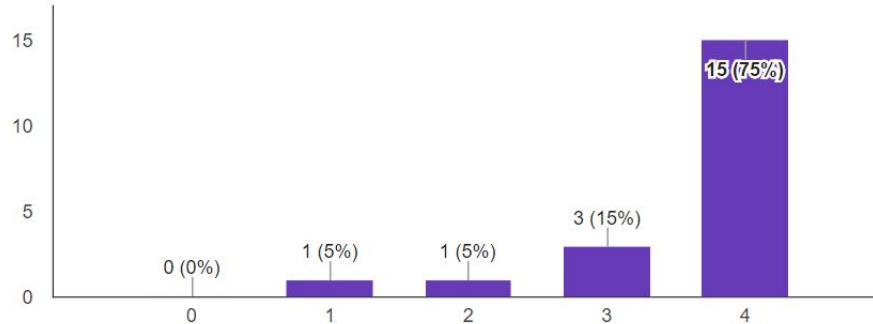
Make it unnecessary for voters to vote strategically (0 to 4)

(20 responses)

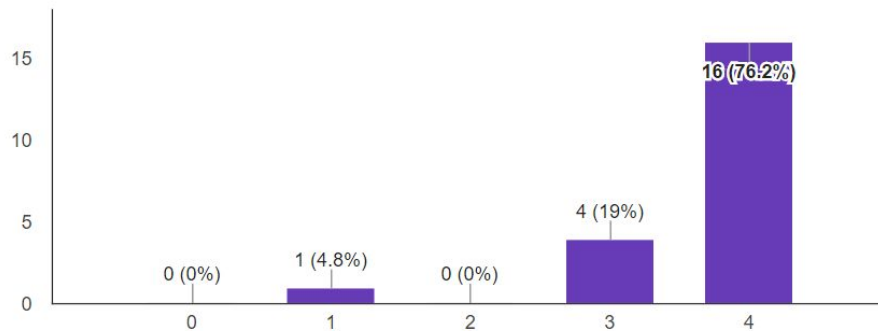


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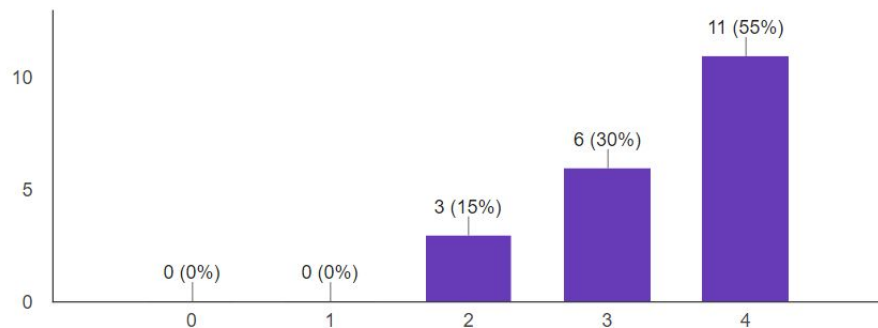
Ensure that the number of parliamentary seats of each party should correspond to its share of the popular vote
(20 responses)



Ensure that as large a share of votes as possible should count to elect representatives in line with voters' political preferences
(21 responses)



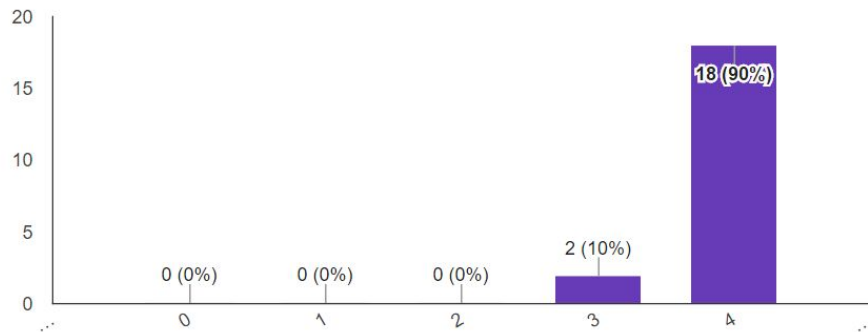
Make sure that votes matter equally in safe ridings or swing ridings
(20 responses)



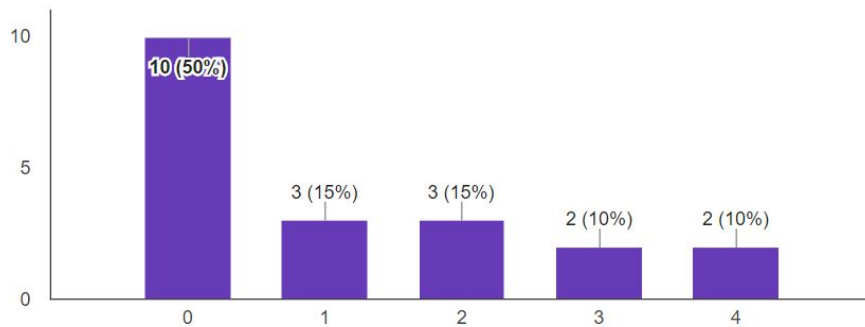
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Voter engagement

Encourage collaboration and compromise among parties and greater civility when discussing policy options
(20 responses)



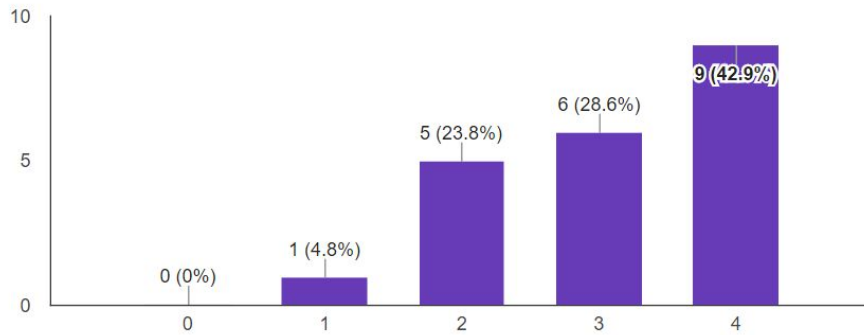
Make it easy to have majority governments led by the party with the greatest share of seats with or without a majority of votes cast
(20 responses)



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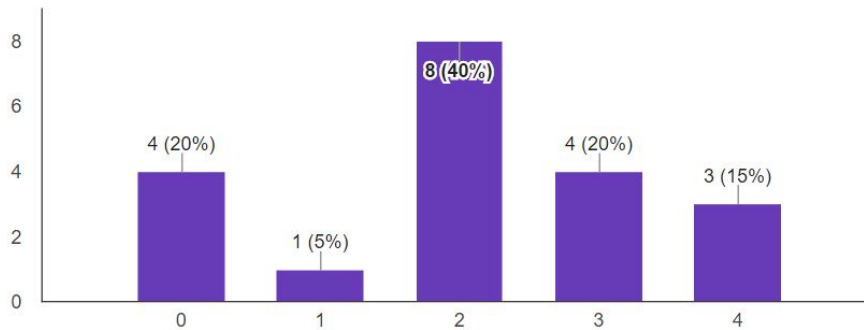
Encourage the formation of coalition governments representing a true majority of the electorate

(21 responses)



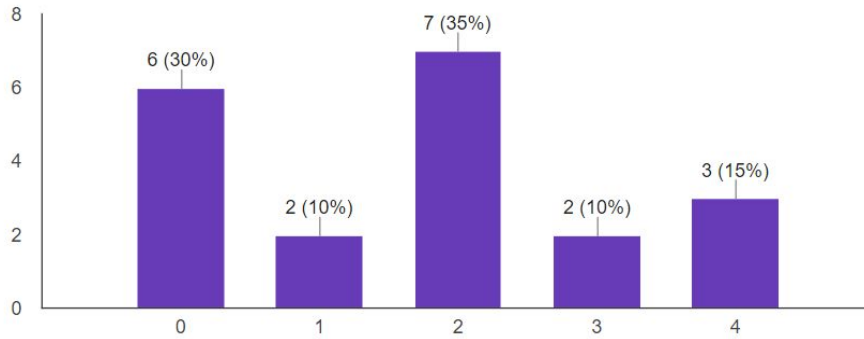
Make it easier for new parties to form and prosper

(20 responses)

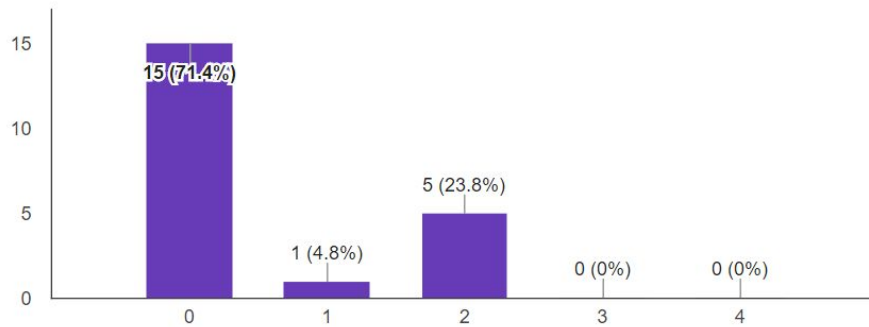


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Avoid the election of MPs from too many small parties
(20 responses)

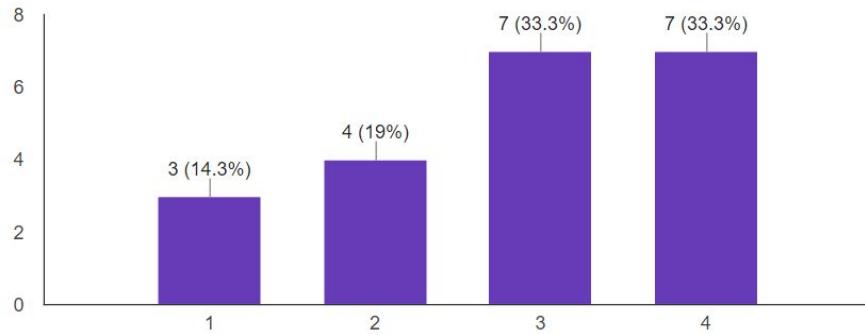


Encourage the dominance of two major parties
(21 responses)



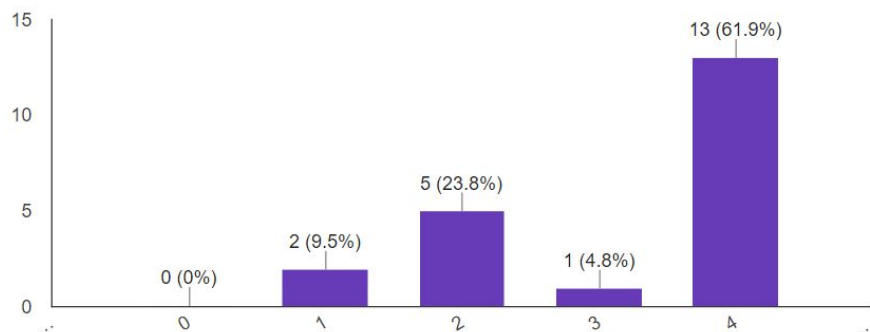
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Make it easier for independents to be elected
(21 responses)



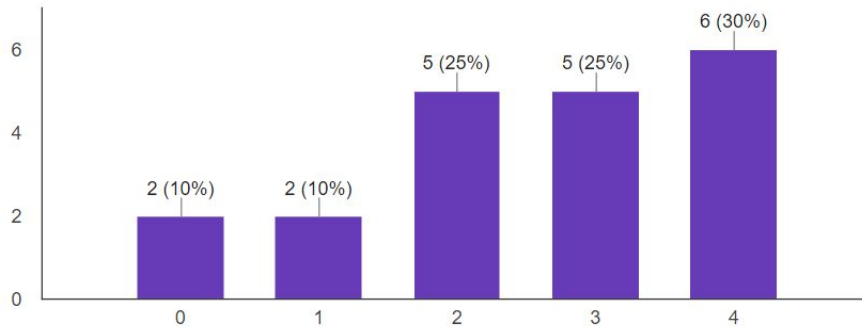
Accessibility and inclusiveness

Make the process of voting as easy as possible for voters
(21 responses)

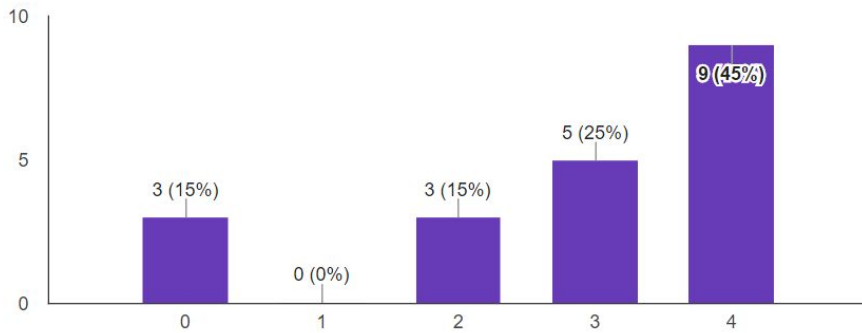


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Avoid increasing the frequency of elections (20 responses)



Elect more women to Parliament (20 responses)

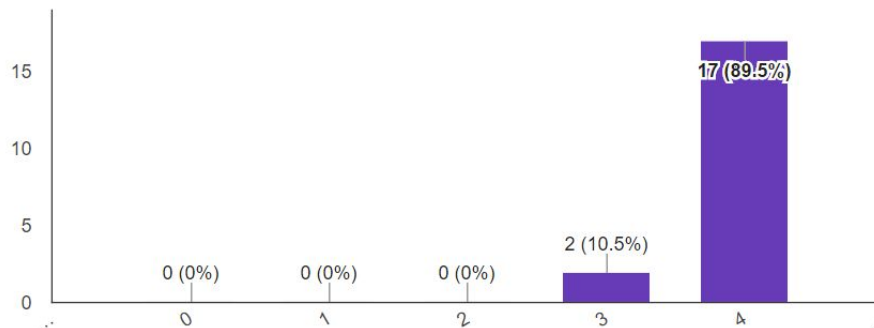


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Integrity

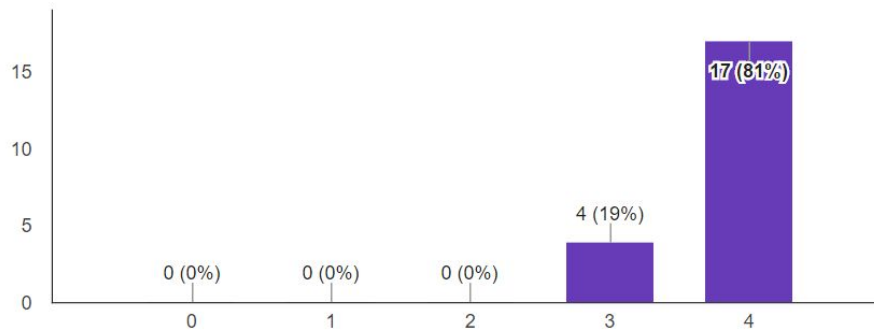
Ensure that our democratic system is based on strong principles of integrity and that measures are taken to safeguard every aspect of the process

(19 responses)



Ensure that all votes matter equally in electing representatives

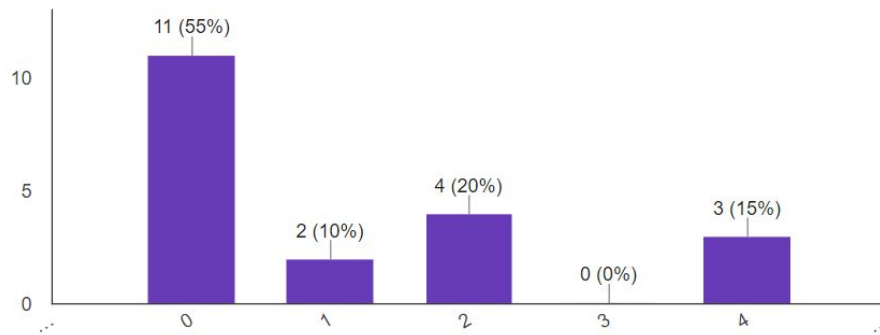
(21 responses)



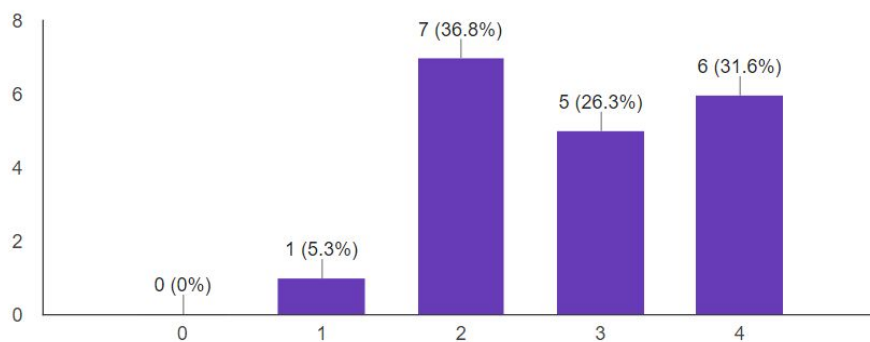
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Local representation

Maintain our current system of one single MP per riding
(20 responses)

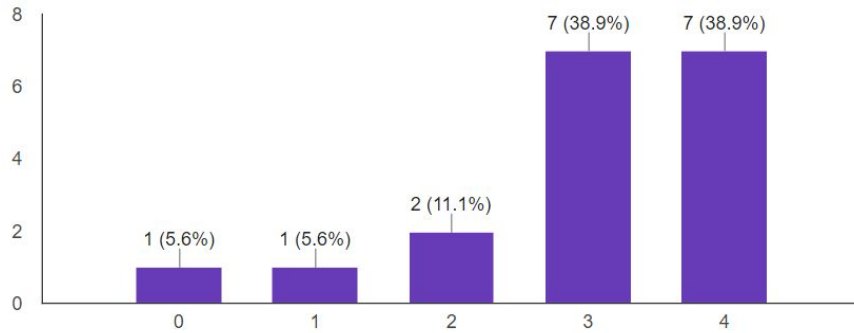


Establish a system of multi-member ridings large enough to ensure proportionality
(19 responses)

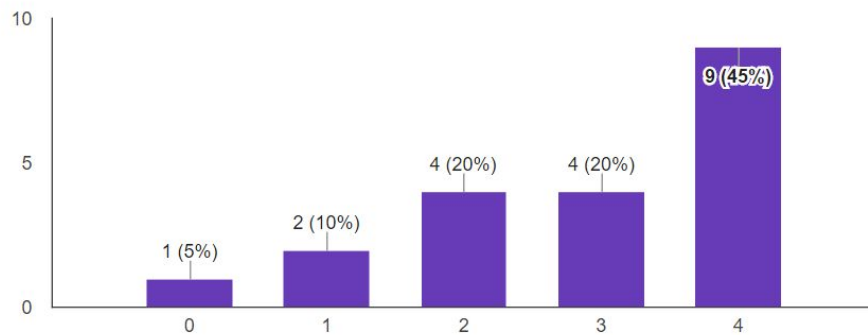


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Ensure that voters elect representatives across the country in proportion to their share of the votes in each region
(18 responses)



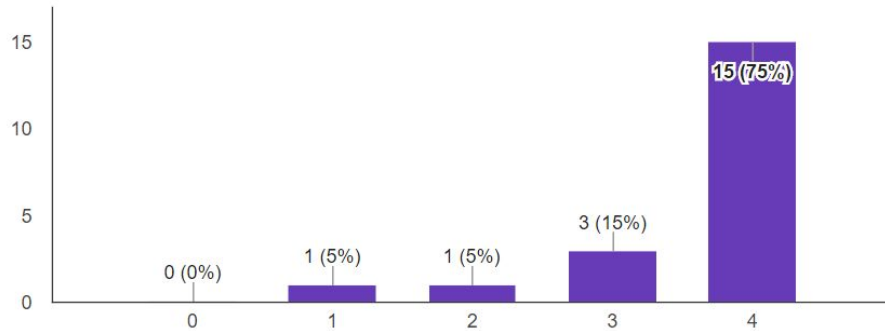
Ensure that the loyalty of MPs to their local constituency does not override their duty to work for the public good at the national level
(20 responses)



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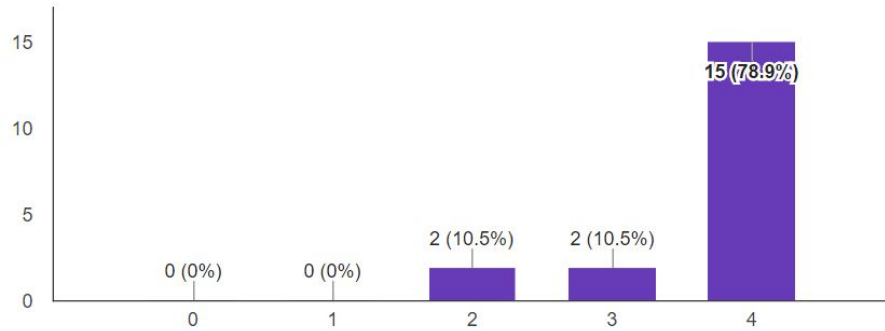
Encourage politicians to take a long-term policy perspective

(20 responses)



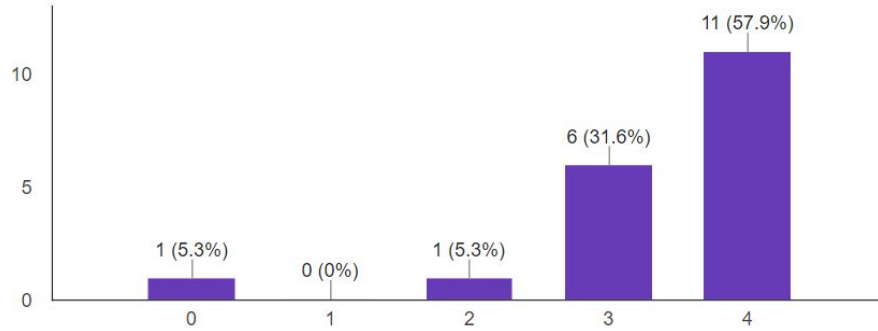
Make sure that we elect the best representatives in each party

(19 responses)



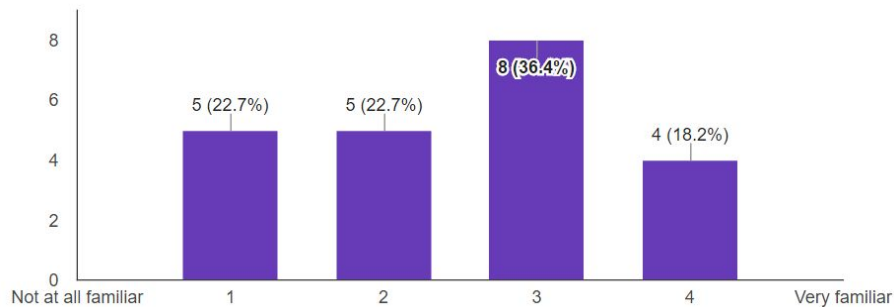
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Avoid large policy swings due to small changes voter preferences
(19 responses)



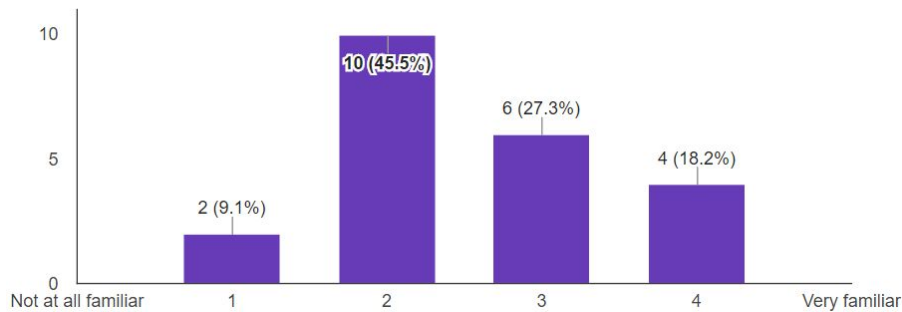
Part III: Electoral Systems

How familiar are you with the proposal to introduce ranked ballots while retaining the winner-take-all approach that we have now (otherwise known as the Instant Runoff or Alternative Vote system?)
(22 responses)

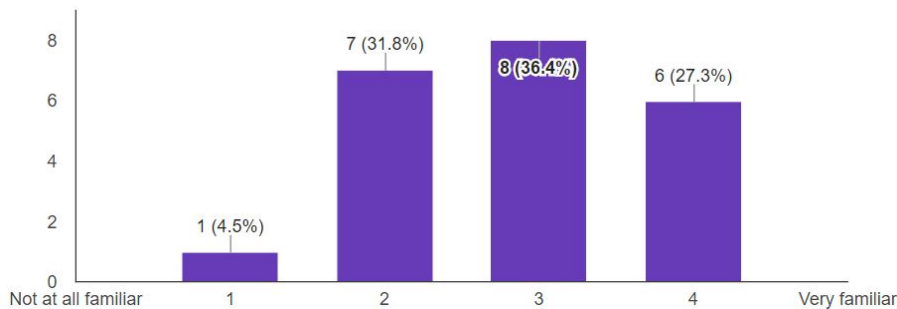


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How familiar are you with the proposal to introduce a Mixed Member Proportional system (MMP), based on somewhat larger ridings combined with the use of top-up seats on a regional basis to ensure proportionality?
(22 responses)

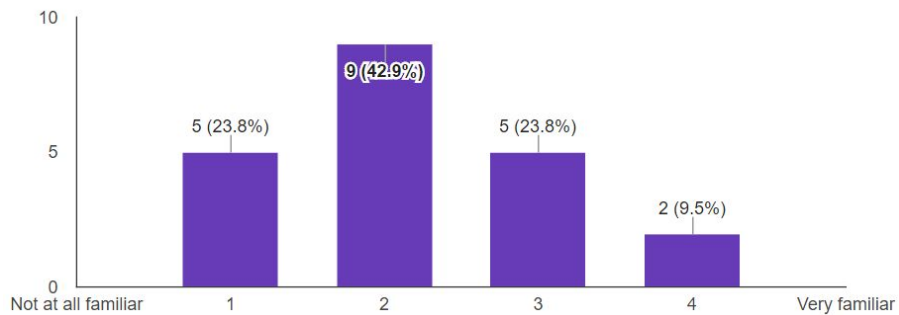


How familiar are you with the Single Transferable Vote system (STV), which would group ridings together in multi-member districts to ensure that voters with different preferences can elect a number of MPs to reflect those different preferences?
(22 responses)



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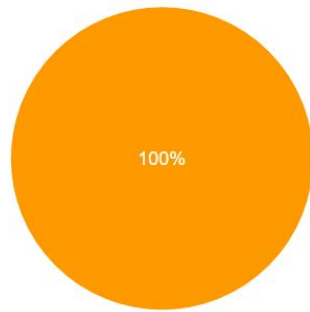
How familiar are you with some of the hybrid options being put forward that would combine multi-member ridings in cities with single-member or two-member ridings in rural areas, while adding a small number of top-up seats to ensure proportionality?
(21 responses)



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Given a choice between keeping the current First-past-the-Post system, or changing it, what would be your preference?

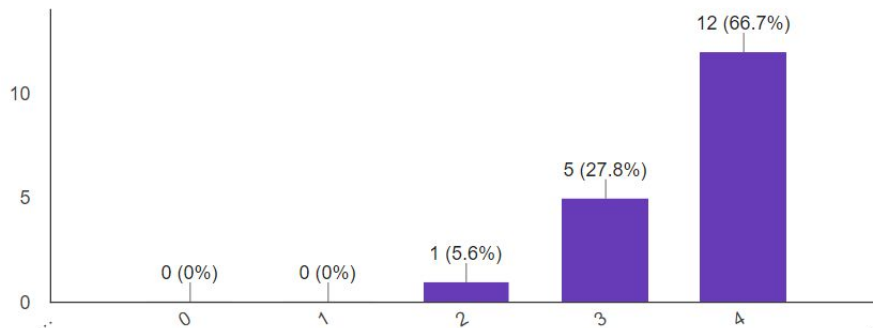
(20 responses)



- Keep the current FPTP system based on single-member ridings in which the candidate with the most votes is elected MP
- Keep the current system but add the option of ranked ballots with instant runoff, otherwise known as the Alternative Vote system, which also...
- Replace the current system with some form of proportional representation, where the number of seats in Parliament approximates e...

Please indicate how strongly you feel your choice

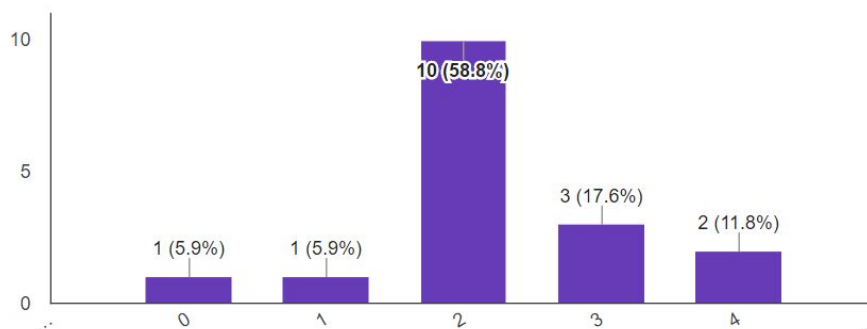
(18 responses)



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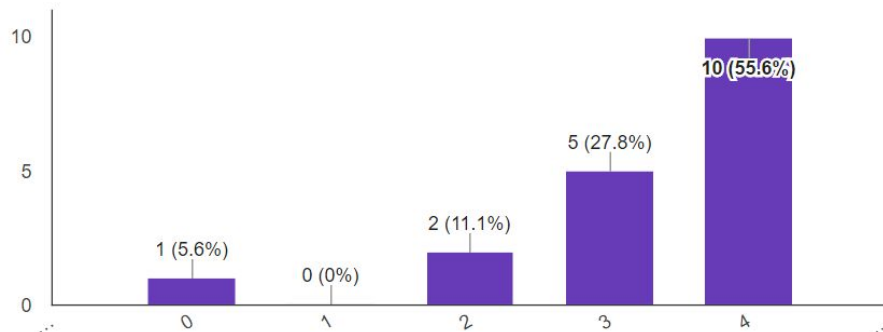
The proportional systems that might be considered most appropriate for a vast country like Canada can be reduced to MMP, STV or a hybrid model involving small multi-member ridings and a small number of top-up seats to increase the proportionality of the system. Based on your understanding of what these systems entail, would you please indicate below your personal assessment of each if these options from 0 to 4, from “don’t like it at all” to “would be an excellent choice for Canada.”

Some version of Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) (retaining single-member seats while adding top-up seats on a regional basis to ensure proportionality)
(17 responses)

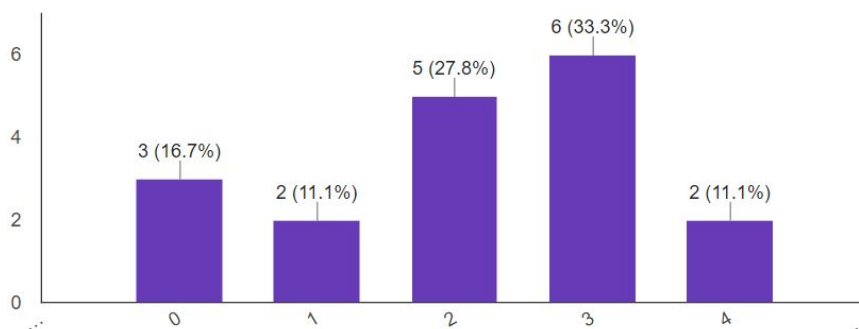


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Some version of single transferable vote (STV) (grouping ridings to form Multi-member ridings to ensure that voters with different preferences can elect a number of MPs to reflect those different preferences)
(18 responses)

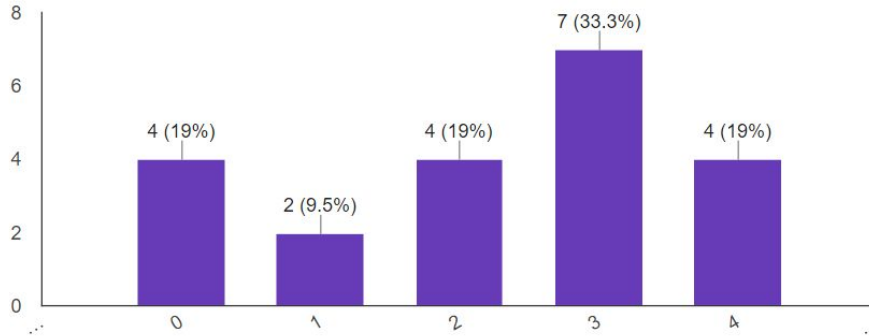


A rural-urban hybrid option involving a mix of multi-member ridings (larger in urban areas, smaller in rural areas, combined with a small number of top-up seats for increased proportionality)
(18 responses)



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Regardless of what system you might prefer, please indicate your views of whether compulsory voting might be good to boost voter turnout
(21 responses)



Regardless of what system you might prefer, please indicate your views of whether online voting might be a good way to boost voter turnout
(21 responses)

