

Municipal Voting System Reform:

Overcoming the Legal Obstacles

October 2002 *Bench & Bar*

Table 1. Comparison of Ballots

First-Past-The-Post Ballot	Single Transferable Vote Ballot																														
Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for. Vote for one	Put an (X) in the square marked "1st choice" opposite the name of the candidate who is your first choice and in the squares marked "2nd," "3rd," and "4th" choice opposite the names of other candidates in order of your preference.																														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1st Choice</th> <th>2nd Choice</th> <th>3rd Choice</th> <th>4th Choice</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Candidate A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Candidate B</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Candidate C</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Candidate D</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice		<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate A	<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate B	<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate C	<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate D
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice																											
<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate A																										
<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate B																										
<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate C																										
<input type="checkbox"/>					Candidate D																										

Table 2. Vote Count Procedure

	1st Choices	1st Transfer	2nd Round	2nd Transfer	3rd Round
Candidate A	37		37	+12	49
Candidate B	34	+1	35	+16	51 WINNER
Candidate C	26	+2	28	-28	0
Candidate D	3	-3	0		
Total	100				
Winning Threshold 50% + 1 =	51				