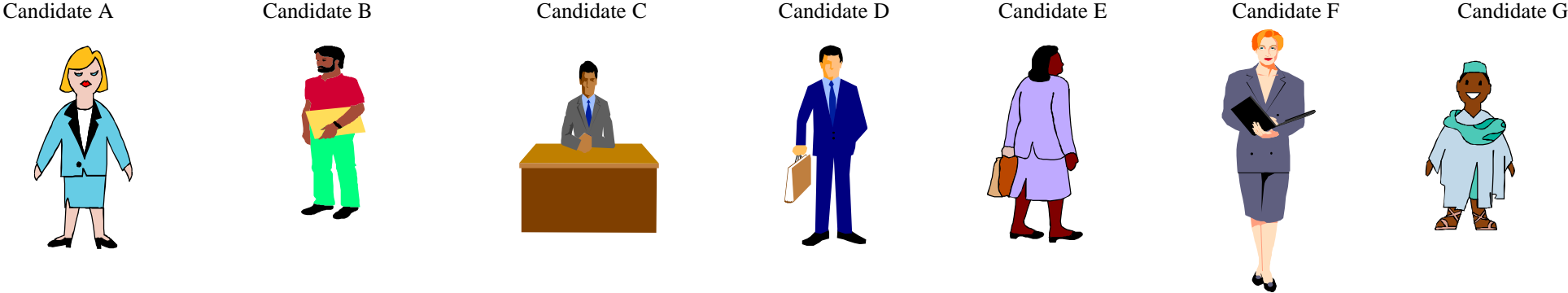


CUMULATIVE VOTING

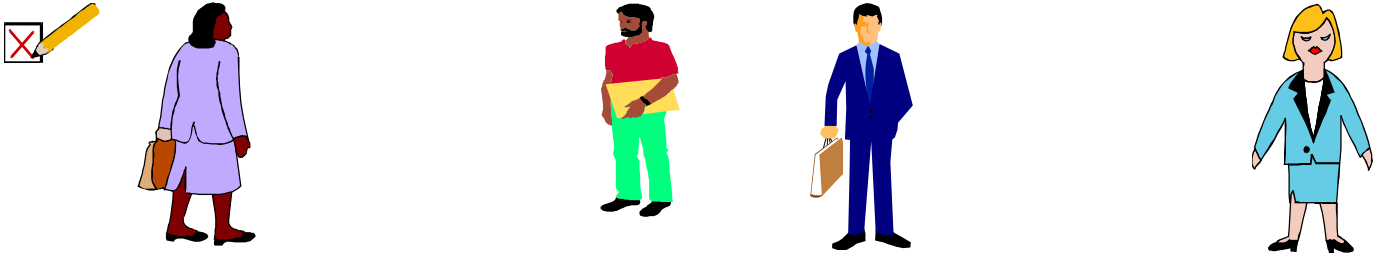
In cumulative voting, voters cast as many votes as there are seats. But unlike winner-take-all systems, voters are not limited to giving only one vote to a candidate. Instead, they can put multiple votes on one or more candidates. Voting rights scholar and law professor Lani Guinier, syndicated columnist William Raspberry, political analyst Kevin Phillips, and Congressman James Clyburn are among those who have promoted cumulative voting as a colorblind means to provide fair minority representation. For example, in a **5-seat city council race**, voters may choose how they want their five votes distributed among the candidates running. If there are seven candidates running in the race, a voter chooses whether to give all of his/her votes to **ONE** candidate, or distribute them in any fashion to the other candidates.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES



How Might Voters Distribute Their Five Votes? A Voter May Cast:

all 5 votes to Candidate E **OR** give 3 votes to Candidate B and 2 votes to Candidate D **OR** give 2 votes to Candidate A, 2 votes to Candidate C, and 1 to Candidate F



ANY METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING THE FIVE VOTES IS ALLOWED. If a racial minority group has a sufficient population [often called the threshold] and “plumps” all of their votes for **one** candidate ... then that candidate would win one of the seats! So in this race, any candidate that gets at least 16.7% of the vote would be elected. When minority, or like-minded voters cumulate or “plump” their votes they elect that particular candidate!