

The One Vote System

With the one vote system, voters cast one vote despite the number of officials to be elected. When votes are limited to one vote per voter opportunities for fair representation are enhanced.

For example, in a **3-seat schoolboard race**, voters would be limited to only one vote. Winning candidates are determined by a simple plurality (whichever three candidates receive the most votes).

SLATE OF CANDIDATES [vote for only one]



In this example, the candidate pictured in the magnifying glass will win if more than 25% of voters give him their one vote. In a traditional at-large election, he could need more than 50% of votes to win a seat. With the one vote system, a majority of voters would elect a majority (2) of the seats, but not all the seats. With traditional at-large, they could sweep all three seats and shut out all voters in the minority.

One Vote System: 51% → 2 seats

At-Large Voting: 51% → 3 seats

25% → 1 seat

25% → 0 seats

So Where is this System Used? Versions of Limited Voting are used in Washington, DC, Philadelphia PA, Hartford, CT, some North Carolina and Alabama municipalities, and some other local jurisdictions. It has been used to resolve at least 25 Voting Rights Act cases.