

Supplementary Voting

Supplementary Voting (SV) is an instant run-off system for electing a person to just one vacancy, in which electors can cast two preferences. To win, a candidate must achieve at least 50% plus one of the first-preference votes. If that doesn't happen any second preferences will come into play (see below). The winner will be the candidate with an absolute majority of the votes remaining in the contest.

With SV there are only a maximum of two preferences, marked with a cross for each choice in side-by-side voting columns. You don't use number preferences. You can't have more than two crosses.

All but the top two candidates are eliminated simultaneously. So after verification, the count only has two more stages at most. With only two candidates left in play, by definition one of them will have the required majority (except in the unlikely event of a dead heat!)

If no-one has 50% and you've got a close finish between second and third, a recount is a real possibility because third place is eliminated instantly along with everyone below you.