



First Past the Post (FPTP)

- The winner with the most votes wins – “winner takes all”
- The winner gets the prize and the other candidates get nothing.
- The winning candidate doesn't have to have a majority (i.e. half the votes) to win.



Proportional Representation (PR)

- There are several types of proportional systems. Together these are usually referred to as “proportional representation” or PR.
- About 90 democratic nations use some form of PR for their electoral system.

Proportional Representation (PR)

- The percentage of seats a party earns in government is equal to the percentage of people that voted for that party.
- If 30% of electors vote for Party A, Party A gets 30% of the seats in the government. If 10% vote for party B, Party B gets 10% of the seats, etc..

FPTP in Canada

- Technically called “**Single Member Plurality**” system.”
- **Single member** - every electoral division (usually called “ridings”) there can only be one winner to represent the entire constituency.
- **Plurality** means that the person with the most votes wins, no matter what percentage of people voted for him or her.

FPTP in Canada

- Canada is divided up into 338 federal *ridings*.
- The party with the most seats usually forms the government, regardless of the percentage of votes they received
- If a party wins over half of the seats in Parliament, there will be a “majority” government.
- E.g. – 170 MPs voted (1 + 169) = majority

Real Canadian Election Results 2015 Election

LIB	CON	NDP	BQ	GRN
184 seats	99 seats	44 seats	10 seats	1 seat
39.5% of vote	31.9% of vote	19.7% of vote	4.7% of vote	3.5% of vote

Real Canadian Election Results

- The Bloc and the Greens, 2008
 - *Are all votes equal?*



948,000 votes = 0 seats



1.3 million votes = 49 seats

Comparing FPTP & PR

- Distribution of seats based on the 2015 Federal Election results, under FPTP and PR

Party	FPTP	PR
Liberal Party of Canada	184	134
Conservatives	99	108
NDP	44	67
Bloc Quebecois	10	16
Green Party	1	12

Rick Mercer: Electoral Reform

Read pages 253-255 in C.P. and the articles below to explain the FPTP and PR and a third alternative system. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each system.

- http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/02/01/a-primer-on-alternatives-to-canada-s-first-past-the-post-electoral-system_n_9129764.html
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/electoral-reform-want-to-ditch-first-past-the-post-meet-the-alternatives/article28006897/>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/the-pros-and-cons-of-canada-s-first-past-the-post-electoral-system-1.3116754>
- <http://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/electoral-reform-five-different-voting-systems-at-a-glance>
- **Types of Voting Systems:** <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/proportional-representation>



Monday Essay

Question:

- Compare and contrast the FPTP and Proportional Representation voting systems. What system do you think would be the best system for Canada and why?
- 3 pages, ~ 60 mins
- Cheat Sheet of notes: one side of half a page (half a 8 x11) – to be handed in with the exam. **No exceptions. DO NOT WRITE YOUR ESSAY ON YOUR SHEET – it will result with a grade of zero.**
- Read your textbook and the articles to prepare.
- Come prepared with pens – don't be late – you will get less time to write.