**Voting** is a method for a group, such as a meeting or an [electorate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituency), in order to make a collective [decision](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decision_making) or express an opinion usually following discussions, debates or [election campaigns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_campaigns). [Democracies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) elect holders of high office by voting. Residents of a place represented by an elected official are called "constituents", and those constituents who cast a [ballot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballot) for their chosen candidate are called "voters". There are different systems for collecting votes.

In smaller organisations, voting can occur in different ways. Formally via ballot to elect others for example within a workplace, to elect members of political associations or to choose roles for others. Informally voting could occur as spoken agreement or as a verbal gesture like a raised hand.

An electoral system or **voting system** is a set of rules that determine how elections and referendums are conducted and how their results are determined. Political electoral systems are organized by governments, while non-political elections may take place in business, non-profit organisations and informal organisations.