

# Advantages of Approval Voting

## A Democratic Reform Solution

## Why Approval Voting?

- ▶ Addresses normative and practical goals of representative democracy.
- ▶ Provides true agency to voters by allowing equal support for multiple candidates.
- ▶ Enhances competition, diversity, and responsiveness in elections.

**Low-cost, high-impact reform for better representation and policies.**

# What is Approval Voting?

## Definition

- ▶ A single-winner voting method where voters choose as many candidates as they wish.
- ▶ The candidate with the most votes wins.
- ▶ Ballot style is nearly identical to plurality voting, with instructions to "Vote for AS MANY names as you approve of."

**Simple, transparent, and easy to implement.**

# Winner Selection

## Key Advantages

- ▶ Elects **Condorcet winners** under honest conditions.
- ▶ Maximizes voter satisfaction through computational simulations.
- ▶ Allows voters to hedge bets by supporting multiple candidates.

**Ensures consensus winners with broad support!**

# Accuracy of Candidate Support

## Capturing True Candidate Support

- ▶ Corrects artificially low support for third-party candidates.
- ▶ Provides accurate representation of voter preferences.
- ▶ Helps ideas from diverse candidates gain traction.

**No more ignored voices or wasted votes!**

# Practical Considerations

## Ease of Implementation

- ▶ Simple ballot design: Minimal changes from plurality voting.
- ▶ Supports risk-limiting audits seamlessly.

**Low-cost, high-impact reform!**

# Addressing Main Critiques

## Critiques and Responses

- ▶ **Majority Criterion:** Violations are rare and often inconsequential.
- ▶ **Later-No-Harm Criterion:** At worst, an acceptable candidate wins.
- ▶ **Bullet Voting:** Studies show minimal impact on outcomes.
- ▶ **Voter Expressiveness:** Approval voting offers unique expressiveness advantages.

**Critiques lack substantive consequences in practice.**

## Growing Adoption

- ▶ Used in Fargo, ND, and St. Louis, MO.
- ▶ Adopted by private organizations like the UN and MAA.
- ▶ Momentum building for broader implementation.

**The future of democratic elections is here!**



## Why Approval Voting Stands Out

- ▶ Selects strong winners while accurately showing candidate support.
- ▶ Transparent, simple, and eases administrative burdens.
- ▶ Performs better than alternatives like plurality and instant runoff voting.

**Approval Voting: A practical solution for modern democracies.**