

Vote app

our consensus

Overview

Voting app presenting options and collating preference.

Goals

1. Smooth decision making.
2. Organisers inviting contributions from many users.
3. Distant participants suggesting options, applying limited veto, and casting votes.
4. Usable and accessible web app gathering user input and calculating democratic preferences.

Minimum viable product

Acceptance criteria

- Prepared suggestion list provided by organiser and distributed to participants
- First-past-the-post voting system
- Fixed time limits
- Results revealed after voting

User stories

Suggestions

As a user I want to easily create my suggestions, via desktop or mobile, to begin the voting process.

Acceptance criteria

- Expandable input text fields
- Unique identifiers for each proposal
- Easily rearrange proposal order
- Allow editing before distribution
- Responsive mobile-first web design

Commons

As an organiser I want to create a group of voters for my constituency.

Acceptance criteria

- Manage organiser's contact list
- Categorise invitees into groups

Instigate

As an organiser I want to invite my constituency to vote for their preferences on my ballot list.

Acceptance criteria

- Message invitations to participants
- Ballot list distributed to participants

Decisions

As an organiser I want vote counting to estimate group preferences.

Acceptance criteria

- App displays collated results
- Identify democratic preference

Voting

As a user I want to cast my vote by picking preferences from a ballot lists.

Acceptance criteria

- App displays list of suggestions
- Single coherent voting phase
- Simple tap or click to cast vote
- Dialogue confirming vote
- Feedback acknowledging receipt of vote
- Provide information about ballot results

Voting progress

As a voter, I want informing about voting progress, so I know when to expect final results.

Acceptance criteria

- Display voting population and current number of votes cast
- Countdown to poll closing

Procrastinators and democrats

As a user I want to see who already voted to know who to chivvy and who to thank.

Acceptance criteria

- List of who voted
- List of who still needs to vote

Penalties

As an organiser I want users to know abstentions count towards popular choices, thus motivating timely voting.

Acceptance criteria

- Warning telling tardy users that abstentions automatically support popular options
- Equally distribute abstentions among most popular choices as nearest whole integer

Stakeholders

As an organiser I want to allow every stakeholder a chance to vote for maximum inclusion.

Acceptance criteria

- >100 simultaneous users
- Low bandwidth demands
- Offline functionality

Authentication

As an organiser I want all participants authenticated to maximise security

Acceptance criteria

- Authenticate users before permitting interactions

Log

As an organiser I want my ballot lists to persist over time for chronicling.

As an organiser I also want all pertinent user interactions recorded for data analysis.

Acceptance criteria

- Automatically store ballot lists and usage logs

Readability

As a user I want to easily read suggestions to quicken decision making.

Acceptance criteria

- Truncate lengthy proposals
- When truncated, provide “see more” button
- When expanded, provide “see less” button
- When typing exceeds 40 characters, unobtrusive advice appears reminding users to place most important points first.

External links

As a user I want to reference external links supporting my proposal.

Acceptance criteria

- Users can identify URLs for automatic linking

Time limits

As an organiser I want to set time limits for voting, thus discouraging procrastination.

Acceptance criteria

- Time picker for organiser to select voting period
- Voting periods can range from minutes to years

Fairness

As an organiser I want fair votes so I can rely on results.

Acceptance criteria

- Prevent double voting

Call for suggestions

As an organiser I want a choice between calling for suggestions or proposing a prepared ballot list.

Acceptance criteria

- Extend prepared suggestion list with options suggested by other users
- Allow organisers to choose a period for this optional suggestion phase

User suggestions

As a user I want to easily input my proposal on my preferred hardware, thus voicing my suggestion.

Acceptance criteria (see “Suggestions” above)

- Expandable input text fields accepting up to 200 characters
- Unique identifiers for each proposal
- Responsive, mobile first, web design

Plurality

As a user I want the opportunity to propose more than one suggestion to express multiplicity of thought.

Acceptance criteria

- Menu option to add a second suggestion

Focus

As an organiser I want to inform users making a second suggestion that their total number of suggestions is limited to 7, thus encouraging focus.

Acceptance criteria

- Alert describing suggestion limits appears if a user offers a second suggestion

Finite options

As an organiser I want to limit the total number of options to maintain engagement.

Acceptance criteria

- Organiser setting for maximum total number of suggestion

Veto admin

As an organiser I want a chance to activate a veto phase which removes unpalatable options

Acceptance criteria

- Admin permits organisers to activate an additional veto phase
- Admin allows organisers to limit the period of veto phase

Vetoing

If permitted, as a user I want to veto one option and hence remove one repugnant option.

Acceptance criteria

- After suggestion phase, and before voting phase, app offers participants a veto
- In veto phase, clashing colour scheme and skull and crossbone motifs discourage casual use of veto
- In veto phase, selecting a suggestion vetoes that suggestion
- Dialogues confirm intention to veto a suggestion
- System may optionally display who vetoed which selection

Phases

As a user I want to clearly distinguish between proposal phase, veto phase and voting phases.

Acceptance criteria

- Contrasting visual design indicating current phases, including:
 - Colours
 - Fonts
 - Inputs eg text boxes vs buttons and numbered selection drop-down options

Voting system

As an organiser I want a choice between first-past-the-post and ranked voting systems so voters can rank up to three preferences.

Acceptance criteria

- Advanced options menu allowing organisers to trigger ranked voting

Concurrent voting admin

As an organiser I want a choice to activate concurrent voting which displays all previous votes to users.

Acceptance criteria

- Admin permits organiser to instigate concurrent voting

Concurrent voting

As a participant in concurrent voting, I want to see live voting counts indicating group opinion.

Acceptance criteria

- During voting phase, present popular choices first
- Prioritise shorter proposals for equally popular options
- Promote earlier suggestions for equally popular options of exactly the same length
- Tally and present votes for each option

Organising secret or open ballot

As an organiser I want to choose between visible and private votes.

Acceptance criteria

- Check box for secret ballots

Voting in confidential ballot

As a user I want to know if others can see my vote to promote polite honesty.

Acceptance criteria

- Visually distinct design for open ballot
- Surrounding text phrased positively rather than as warnings
- Informative text indicating open ballot (“Let others know your preferences”)
- Informative text indicating secret vote (“Cast your secret ballot”)

Roles

As an organiser I want to limit who can propose suggestions to exclude fantasists.

Acceptance criteria

- Invitee role allocation: proposer or participant

Forum

As a user I want to debate suggestions in a discussion page.

Acceptance criteria

- Integrated forum or comments page

Wavering

As a user I want the option to change my vote thus facilitating progress of thought.

Acceptance criteria

- Clickable options to change vote
- Indication this change to other users

Contact

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