

# Vote app

## 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

- Sustain many 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 crossbones 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

[martin.mphil@gmail.com](mailto:martin.mphil@gmail.com)

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