

GLOSSARY

- Alternative vote: A preferential majoritarian system, in which voters list candidates in order of their preference. Second and third, etc. preferences may be used to get to 50%+1 if no candidate gets there on first preferences alone. Also called ranked choice voting or instant runoff
- Coalitions: Pre-electoral (Malaysia) vs. post-electoral (most PR countries)
- District magnitude: the number of seats to be filled in a single territorial constituency. In PR systems, more seats generally = greater proportionality
- First past the post: The plurality system used in Malaysia, the UK, USA (for the most part)
- List-system PR: A system in which candidates are put up by parties on a numbered list for each constituency. The higher on the list, the more likely to be elected - Two variations: closed lists, with order on a list usually decided by party leaders; open lists, with order subject to change by voter preferences
- Mixed-member system: usually some PR seats and some plurality seats, with proportional results dominating (Germany) or not (Japan)
- Proportional representation (PR): A system intended to produce good correspondence between the percentage of votes won and the percentage of seats won by a political party.
- Seat bonus: The ability of a party or coalition to win a majority of seats on a plurality (or, rarely, less than a plurality) of total votes cast.
- Threshold: The overall fraction of votes a party must win in a PR election to be able to claim any seats. The higher the fraction, the less proportional the results and the less favorable to small parties.
- Two-round system: A system in which candidates must reach 50%+1 to win, if necessary, by a runoff second round between top 2 candidates (France)