



# Alternate Voting Processes Study

## *Background Information*

PREPARED FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA BY THE  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA  
P.O. BOX 11775, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33733 — 2006

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## Alternative Voting Systems: Consensus Questions

**Please respond by deadline: December 15, 2006**

- Name of Local League: \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of Members Participating in Consensus: \_\_\_\_\_
- Method of Consensus Taking: e.g. discussion meeting, polling via Voter or phone, other, (please explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Directions:

- Please indicate your League's opinion for each of the voting systems studied for single-seat elections when more than two candidates are running.
- Please comment on the reasons for your League's decision.
- **This consensus process allows for supporting more than one voting method.**
- The State Board will develop a position statement regarding the outcome.
- Please check if the preponderance of your group agrees — either **Support** or **Oppose**. If no agreement can be reached or if the group is sharply divided, check **No Consensus**.

**QUESTION:** Is the current method of plurality voting adequate under all circumstances, or should alternate options be recommended? The methods under consideration are the following.

**1. Plurality Voting** – Current voting system in Florida; the candidate with the most votes wins, regardless of whether or not he or she received a majority of the votes cast.

**Support** \_\_\_ **Oppose** \_\_\_ **No consensus** \_\_\_

**Why or why not?:**

Continued

**2. Approval Voting:** Voters cast votes for all the candidates they approve. The candidate with the most votes wins. **Support** \_\_\_ **Oppose** \_\_\_ **No consensus** \_\_\_

**Why or why not?:**

**3. Borda Count:** Voters rank the candidates, and a pre-determined number of points are assigned to each ranked choice, with a first choice receiving the highest number of points, a second choice less, and so on. The candidate with the most points wins. **Support** \_\_\_ **Oppose** \_\_\_ **No consensus** \_\_\_

**Why or why not?:**

**4. Condorcet:** Voters rank the candidates, and the winning candidate is the person who can top each of the others in a "pair-wise comparison." **Support** \_\_\_ **Oppose** \_\_\_ **No consensus** \_\_\_

**Why or why not?:**

**5. Instant Runoff Voting:** Voters rank the candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated, and the votes cast for the eliminated candidate are transferred (or moved) to the next choice listed on each ballot. This process of elimination continues until a majority winner is declared. **Support** \_\_\_ **Oppose** \_\_\_ **No consensus** \_\_\_

**Why or why not?**

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**Return this form, by December 15, 2006, to:**

**Regular Mail: LWVF Office, 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506**

**Fax: 850 222-4485 • E-mail: lwvfl@cs.com**

Local President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_