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## **Single Transferrable Vote (STV) for Board of Director Elections**

Beginning with the 2014 Board of Directors election, the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) method has been used to determine the election results. STV is a voting system designed to achieve proportional representation through ranked voting. The ballots will be counted using the Droop/Cincinnati procedures which are preferred methods for making every vote count.

Registered voters will receive a ballot listing at least twice the number of nominees than there are open board positions. Voters must rank nominees in the order of preference by placing a '1' beside the most preferred candidate, a '2' beside the second most preferred candidate, and so on, as long as the voter wishes to state a preference. Each voter's ballot will only be used for one candidate, following the rank order of candidates and the process described below.

### **Method**

The ballots containing the ranked preferences will be counted by an outside organization using the Droop/Cincinnati procedures. Each candidate requires a minimum number of votes, a "quota" to be elected, which is determined as:

$$\text{Quota} = \text{valid votes cast} / (\text{seats to fill} + 1) + 1$$

which is rounded down to the closest integer. All candidates achieving the quota with ballots where they are ranked first are elected.

### **Steps for Processing Ballots**

1. A candidate who has reached or exceeded the quota is declared elected.
2. If such elected candidate has more votes than the quota, the excess votes are transferred to other candidates based on their next indicated choice. The surplus votes are distributed to candidates based on the second ranked candidate indicated on the ballot. The surplus votes that would have gone to the winner go to the next preference.
3. If no new candidate meets the quota, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and those votes are transferred as surplus to the next ranked candidate.
4. When the number of votes transferred from the losing candidate with the fewest votes is too small to change the ordering of remaining candidates, more than one candidate can be eliminated simultaneously
5. This process repeats until either a winner is found for every seat or there are as many seats as remaining candidates.
6. The process may be modified to ensure the results are consistent with the Board of Directors' goals of increasing diversity and balancing member representation.

Because votes cast for losing candidates and excess votes cast for winning candidates are transferred to voters' next choice candidates, STV ensures a fair representation in order of preference and is believed to minimize wasted votes.