

Politics Essay

There are lots of different electoral systems in the world which means lots of different ways of governing countries. For example UK uses first past the post, The Scottish and Welsh assembly are elected by the first past the post and then uses PR top-up to elect more representatives for each region, Australia use the Alternative vote and Germany uses Additional member system.

In the First past the post system used in the UK general election, each voter is allowed to vote for one candidate, and the winner of the election is whichever candidate received the largest number of votes. This makes the plurality voting system among the simplest of all voting systems. In an election for a legislative body, each voter in a given geographically-defined electoral district votes for one candidate from a list of candidates competing to represent that district. Under the plurality system, the winner of the election acts as representative of that constituency, and serves with representatives of other electoral districts. This system results in a type of Government that may not have the majority of people able to vote supporting them so doesn't represent the whole country. It also gives the overall winning party a lot of power even if they have only won by a small majority over the second placed party. The UK system also doesn't give third parties much of a chance of winning an election or the proportion of seats that they have got from the whole country.

The Scottish and Welsh assembly and German elections use the same additional member system. The Additional Member System is a voting system in which some representatives are elected from geographic constituencies and others are elected under proportional representation from party lists. The constituency representatives are generally elected under the first-past-the-post voting system. The party list representatives are elected by a second vote, where the electors vote for a political party, not directly for an individual. This party vote determines the number of representatives the party has in the assembly. The particular individuals selected come from lists drawn up by the political parties before the election, at a national or regional level. Variations of the AMS have different ways of determining how many party list representatives each party is entitled to. The main difference between systems is whether the constituency representatives are counted when list representatives are allocated to each party. Parallel Voting is the more common variation among voting systems of the world. Small parties will generally win more seats under MMP than SUP unless there is a threshold of exclusion, such as the 5% or 3 constituencies threshold in Germany, or the 5% or 1

constituency seat threshold in New Zealand. This system normally produces coalitions in German elections, which gives the third parties of the country more power than they are represented in the elections.

Alternative vote is a voting system normally used for single-winner elections utilizing a ranked ballot. The term instant-runoff another term for alternative vote refers to the way in which IRV ballots are tabulated, as the winner is determined similarly to holding a series of runoff elections with vote choices implied from the alternative preferences listed on the ballot. Instant-runoff voting is mathematically equivalent to the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method when there is only a single winner.

All of these systems result in different ways of governing the country. I believe the best system is the German system of additional member system because it gives a real proportion of what the public voted for it also doesn't give the winning party too much power like the UK system of First past the post. The Scottish and Welsh assembly elections are also as democratic as the German system but doesn't have the power to implement how proportional their system is.