Advantages/Disadvantages of LPV

Advantages

1. The elected candidate is the one preferred by most voters.

2. The voters are given more than one choice.

3. The elector's votes can have more value.

4. It requires candidates to have broader community support.

5. It **encourages** more female candidates.

6. It **promotes** unity among candidates, parties, clans and tribal groups.

7. It encourages candidates to work personally for their votes.

Disadvantages

1. It **increases Exhausted** Votes.

2. **Declaration** may be delayed because of the long counting process.

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VOTE
1 2 3
LPV
Now that's fair

Limited Preferential Voting
is the new way to vote in
National Elections.

You are now required to vote
for your 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice.

Definition of Terms
LPV

Formality

For a ballot paper to be formal, it must have three numbers 1, 2 & 3 marked on the **ballot-paper**. Where there are three candidates, the ballot-paper is formal if it has the numbers 1 & 2 marked. The candidate with a blank square is deemed a last preference. Where there are two candidates only, the ballot paper is formal if it has the number one marked on the ballot-paper. The candidate with a blank square is deemed as last preference.

Absolute Majority

An Absolute Majority is obtained when a candidate receives 50% + 1 of the formal votes in the count. Any candidate who receives an absolute majority at any stage of the count, is declared elected.

Exhausted Ballot-Papers

A ballot-paper is exhausted when there is no continuing candidate left in the count to which the ballot paper could be allocated i.e. The candidate with preference numbers have been excluded from the count.

Distribution of Preferences

If the candidate for whom a preference given is excluded, the next available preference marked on the ballot paper is distributed. This is called distribution of preferences.

Excluded Candidate

Throughout the distribution of preferences, a candidate is excluded at the end of each stage of count if no candidate receives an absolute majoity.

The preferences marked on the ballot paper are used to sort the ballot paper to the next preference and the elector's vote is transferred to the continuing candidates. The candidate with the lowest number of votes is excluded from the count.

Scrutiny of Votes

1. All the Ballot Boxes for an Open Electorate would be brought to a central counting centre.

2. All the ballot boxes will be opened one at a time to identify the formalities (formal and informal) of the ballot-papers from the entire electorate to determine the total formal ballot-papers.

3. Once the total numbers of formal and informal ballot papers are determined, the first preference votes are then allocated to each individual candidate.

4. When the allocation of first preference votes is completed, then counting of first preference vote for each candidate takes place. If no candidate secures an absolute majority of the first preference votes, then the candidate with the lowest (least) number of votes is 'eliminated' from the count.

5. The ballot papers from the eliminated candidate are examined and re-allocated to the continuing candidates according to the "second preference" votes which is indicated by number "2".

6. If no candidate has yet secured an absolute majority of the vote, then the next candidate with the lowest number of votes is again eliminated. Where a second preference is expressed for a candidate who has already been eliminated, the voter's "third preference" is used. The Elimination process continues until an absolute majority is reached or obtained by a candidate.

7. Where on any count being conducted, there is a possibility of identifying exhausted ballot papers on Third Exclusion. The existence of exhausted ballot paper(s) lowers the total number of formal ballot papers remaining in the count and it is necessary to re-calculate the Absolute Majority.

Ties Between Candidates

1. During the elimination process, if there is a tie (that is two or more candidates having an equal number of votes), then one of them has to be excluded. The Returning Officer will immediately conduct a draw to determine the candidate to be excluded. **The candidate drawn out from the lot is excluded.**

2. In the final count, if two candidates have an equal number of votes, **then the candidate drawn out from the lot by the Returning Officer if declared the winner.**