

Hare-Clark

What is the Hare-Clark electoral system?

Hare-Clark is a type of proportional representation system.

This system is used when you need to elect more than 1 person from each electorate.

Hare-Clark is used in the ACT to elect Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly. They are called MLAs for short.

There are 25 MLAs. They are elected from 5 electorates called Brindabella, Ginninderra, Kurrajong, Murrumbidgee and Yerrabi.

MLAs are elected for 4 years.

How did the Hare-Clark electoral system get its name?

Hare-Clark was named after the two people who created it. Sir Thomas Hare was an English lawyer. He created the system in 1859. Andrew Inglis Clark was a Tasmanian politician. He made some changes to the system to suit Tasmania.

Hare-Clark was first used in a Tasmanian election in 1897.

Voting

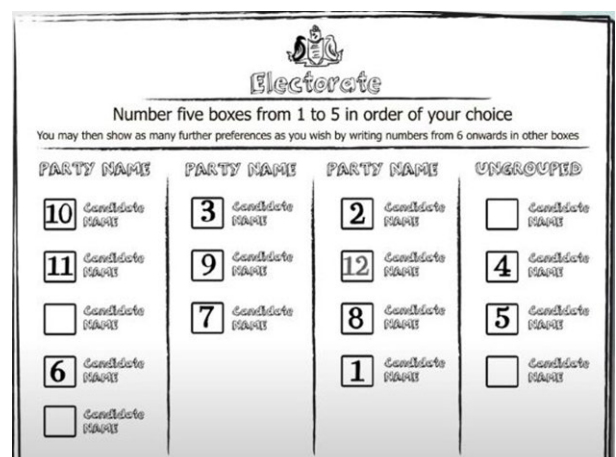
The people who want to be elected are called candidates.

You show which candidates you are voting for on the ballot paper by using numbers to show your choices.

You start from 1 and keep numbering the boxes beside each candidate you like.

The order of your numbers shows the order in which you like the candidates. This is called showing your preferences.

You are electing 5 Members so you need to number at least 5 boxes. You can number more boxes if you want to.



Electorate

Number five boxes from 1 to 5 in order of your choice

You may then show as many further preferences as you wish by writing numbers from 6 onwards in other boxes

PARTY NAME	PARTY NAME	PARTY NAME	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Candidate NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Candidate NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Candidate NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Candidate NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate NAME			

Step 1: How are votes counted?

All the ballot papers with a number '1' are counted. These are the formal votes.

Ballot papers without a number '1' or with more than one number '1' are called informal votes. These are not able to be used to elect candidates. Ticks and crosses are not counted.

Step 2: Getting elected

A candidate has to receive a certain number of votes to be elected. This is called the quota.

This is the formula to work out the quota:

$$\frac{\text{total number of formal votes}}{\text{number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$$

You can work out the quota after you have counted the formal votes (step 1). The number of vacancies is the number of candidates that are going to be elected.

Example: What is the quota if there are 2 vacancies and there are 100 formal votes?

$$\frac{100}{2 + 1} + 1 = \frac{100}{3} + 1 = 33.3 + 1 = 34.3$$

So, a candidate needs a quota of 34 votes to be elected in this example.

Step 3: Filling the vacancies

Any candidate who has the same number of votes as the quota, or more, is elected.

If all the vacancies have been filled, the election is finished.

If all the vacancies have not been filled, check to see if any candidate has more votes than the quota. If a candidate has more votes than the quota, go to step 4. If there are no candidates with more than the quota, go to step 5.

Step 4: Transferring surplus votes

When a candidate has more votes than the quota these are called surplus votes. Surplus votes are given to other candidates by looking at the next choice shown by the voter on the ballot paper. Work out the new total of votes for each candidate then go back to step 3.

Step 5: Excluding candidates

If there are still vacancies, find the candidate who has the lowest number of votes. This candidate is now taken out of the vote counting. This is called excluding the candidate. Transfer each of the candidate's votes to another candidate by looking at the next choice shown by the voter on each ballot paper. Work out the new number of votes for each candidate then go back to step 3.

The process of distributing surplus votes from elected candidates and excluding the candidate with the fewest votes goes on until all the vacancies are filled.

Casual vacancies

A casual vacancy happens when a Member leaves the Legislative Assembly before the next election. A new Member needs to be elected.

Elections ACT recounts ballot papers from the last election to elect the new Member. Only the ballot papers that elected the Member who is leaving are counted.

Only candidates who were on the same ballot paper can be in the recount. They must fill out a form to tell us they want to be included.

The recount is done by looking at the next number that voters put on the ballot paper. The new Member is the person with the most votes.

Casual vacancies in the ACT Legislative Assembly

Assembly	Vacating member	Date of resignation	Replacement member	Date elected
First	Paul Whalan	30 April 1990	Terry Connolly	1 May 1990
Second	Lou Westende	25 July 1994	Bill Stefaniak	23 August 1994
Third	Terry Connolly	19 February 1996	Marion Reilly	21 March 1996
	Rosemary Follett	12 December 1996	Simon Corbell	9 January 1997
	Tony De Domenico	30 January 1997	Louise Littlewood	13 February 1997
Fourth	Kate Carnell	13 December 2000	Jacqui Burke	18 January 2001
Fifth	Gary Humphries	24 January 2003	Jacqui Burke	10 February 2003
	Kerrie Tucker	14 September 2004	Not filled as 2004 pre-election period had commenced.	
Sixth	Ted Quinlan	21 March 2006	Andrew Barr	5 April 2006
Seventh	Jon Stanhope	16 May 2011	Chris Bourke	1 June 2011
Eighth	Zed Seselja	11 June 2013	Nicole Lawder	26 June 2013
	Katy Gallagher	23 December 2014	Meegan Fitzharris	16 January 2015
	Mary Porter	19 February 2016	Jayson Hinder	7 March 2016
	Brendan Smyth	15 July 2016	Val Jeffery	29 July 2016
Ninth	Steve Doszpot	25 November 2017	Candice Burch	13 December 2017
	Meegan Fitzharris	8 July 2019	Deepak-Raj Gupta	23 July 2019
Tenth	Alistair Coe	12 March 2021	James Milligan	26 March 2021