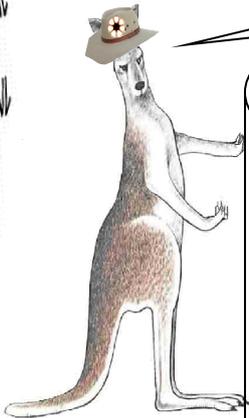# Voting and Elections

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DEFINITION: **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**

'Democracy' comes from an ancient Greek word meaning *'rule by the people'*. Obviously in democratic countries like Australia, it is impossible for all people to come together to make every decision about how they are governed. Instead, we elect a small number of people, or *'representatives'* to make decisions for us.
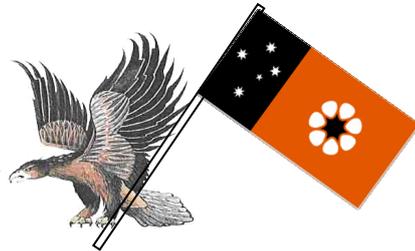

Who can vote?

In order to vote in Northern Territory elections, you must live in the Northern Territory and be enrolled on the *electoral roll*.

In order to be on the electoral roll you must:

- Be 18 years of age (you may enrol at 16, but cannot vote until you are 18 years old)
- Be an Australian citizen (or a British subject who was on the Commonwealth Roll before 25.01.84)
- Have been living at your current address for at least one month

Elections for the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly are held every 4 years, on the 4th Saturday in August

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DEFINITION: **PREFERENTIAL VOTING**

Preferential voting is a system of voting in which a voter marks an order of preference for candidates, giving the number one to his or her first choice and the last number to the last choice.

ACTIVITY ⟹ *Who won?* With preferential voting, the winner needs 50% + 1 of the total votes to win. 1. Calculate how many votes your winner needs. 2. Count the number 1s for each candidate. 3. If there is no clear winner, take the ballot papers with a number 1 next to the candidate who got the least 1 votes. 4. Assign their number 2 vote to a candidate. (This should give you a winner for this election, but it can continue until you are assigning number 3 votes.)

Smith 1	Smith 2	Smith 3	Smith 3	Smith 2
Jones 2	Jones 1	Jones 2	Jones 1	Jones 3
Brown 3	Brown 3	Brown 1	Brown 2	Brown 1

Smith 1	Smith 2	Smith 3	Smith 3	Smith 2
Jones 2	Jones 1	Jones 2	Jones 1	Jones 3
Brown 3	Brown 3	Brown 1	Brown 2	Brown 1

First preferences totals :

Smith 1

Jones 2

Brown 2

Look at second preference from the Smith vote - goes to Jones.

So Winner is Jones with 3 votes, second is Brown and third is Smith