

7. Election Results Documentation

This section is intended to provide suggestions about how and when to distribute the results of small hand tallied elections, and only such elections – the computer tallied big elections have a surfeit of available printouts documenting every aspect of the election.

Here a distinction will be made between “outcome” and “result”. “Outcome” will simply refer to a list of winners. “Result” will add to that any and all information about what happened at each round, the order of elimination/election, final vote counts, ties and how they were broken, and so on.

An outcome is no problem to report, as the appropriate tally form will be handed to the chair or convener of the meeting, who can announce the winners. Documenting a result, which may be a bit complex and time consuming, is more difficult, and *should be done in close conjunction with a written chronicle of an election round by round tally*. Good notes (utilizing forms prepared in advance) during a tally should make publication of an acceptable result document fairly easy. Since small Pacifica elections can be configured in a great variety of ways, it’s hard to anticipate ahead of time what kind of tally blanks or forms would provide the greatest assistance either with a tally or with publishing the result thereof, which is why no sample forms were provided in either Section 5 or Section 6. There is also some advantage in allowing election operators to create tally paperwork that they are comfortable with – the goal of a tally is to get the result. Documentation and publication of that result is a bit constrained, since it is intended for distribution and should be as easy to understand as possible.

It’s difficult to know ahead of time, even for small Pacifica elections, such basic things as how many candidates to list on a form. One might expect, for example, in an election from some LSB with 24 members providing the totality of the electorate, and perhaps 3 offices, the candidate roster would be unlikely to exceed six. But there is no guarantee! It is not impossible, however unlikely, that ALL the LSB members might choose to run for places on a particularly popular 3 seat committee – candidates can of course be voters as well, so in terms of the number of candidates the election isn’t that small. A form based on an anticipated maximum of a half-dozen candidates would not work without some modification.

On pages 50 thru 52 there are two sample tally forms – one is two sided.

The first is a tentative round-by-round “Vote Count Form” that should be tried in a mock election and improved based on the experience gained. The spaces to enter data are rather crowded, but there is a lot to be said for forms that fit on a letter-size sheet. Supplemental sheets, for more candidates and/or rounds, are certainly a possibility. The choice of 6 candidates and 8 rounds on the sheet partially shown within this document is strictly to show the layout of the form.

The second form (the “Result Form”) doesn’t show explicitly which candidates are elected or eliminated at which round, although that information can be derived from the numbers entered: if a candidate’s count first becomes 0 at some round, then clearly the candidate was declared eliminated at the end of the previous round. Similarly, the first time a candidate’s count equals or exceeds the threshold, the candidate is elected at that round. So some kind of round by round summary form is needed and useful and a great assist in avoiding errors and the hassle they may cause!

STV ELECTION ROUND-BY-ROUND VOTE COUNT FORM

ELECTION _____ VENUE _____ DATE _____

ELECTION OPERATORS _____

s = # of OFFICES _____ v = # of VALID BALLOTS _____ d = DROOP THRESHOLD _____

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT by ROUND NUMBER							
1 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
2 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
3 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
4 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
5 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
6 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
7 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
8 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
9 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
10 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
11 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
12 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
13 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
14 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
15 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
16 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
17 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
18 _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
EXH _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
Checksum: _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____

STV ELECTION ROUND-BY-ROUND RESULT FORM ~ Top Sheet

ELECTION _____ **VENUE** _____ **DATE** _____

ELECTION OPERATORS _____

s = # of OFFICES _____ **v = # of VALID BALLOTS** _____ **d = DROOP THRESHOLD** _____

Round 1 – Initial vote count and declarations based thereon

Refer to the **Round 1** vote count values on the **VOTE COUNT FORM**. On the basis of these counts, indicate results.

CANDIDATES ELECTED THIS ROUND (if none proceed to second part of form)

CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____
CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____
CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____

CANDIDATE ELIMINATED THIS ROUND (Note any ties & tiebreak method on second line captioned "TIES")

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____

TIES _____

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Round 2 – Vote count and declarations based thereon

Refer to the **Round 2** vote count values on the **VOTE COUNT FORM**. On the basis of these counts, indicate results.

CANDIDATES ELECTED THIS ROUND (if none proceed to second part of form)

CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____
CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____
CANDIDATE _____	VOTES _____	SURPLUS _____	VALUE MULTIPLIER _____

CANDIDATE ELIMINATED THIS ROUND (Note any ties & tiebreak method on second line captioned "TIES")

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____

TIES _____

STV ELECTION ROUND-BY-ROUND RESULT FORM ~ Continuation

ELECTION _____ **VENUE** _____ **DATE** _____

ELECTION OPERATORS _____

s = # of OFFICES _____ **v = # of VALID BALLOTS** _____ **d = DROOP THRESHOLD** _____

Round _____ **Vote count and declarations based thereon**

Refer to the **Round** _____ vote count values on the **VOTE COUNT FORM**. On the basis of these counts, indicate results.

CANDIDATES ELECTED THIS ROUND (if none proceed to second part of form)

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE ELIMINATED THIS ROUND (Note any ties & tiebreak method on second line captioned "TIES")

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____

TIES _____

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Round _____ **Vote count and declarations based thereon**

Refer to the **Round** _____ vote count values on the **VOTE COUNT FORM**. On the basis of these counts, indicate results.

CANDIDATES ELECTED THIS ROUND (if none proceed to second part of form)

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____ **SURPLUS** _____ **VALUE MULTIPLIER** _____

CANDIDATE ELIMINATED THIS ROUND (Note any ties & tiebreak method on second line captioned "TIES")

CANDIDATE _____ **VOTES** _____

TIES _____