

How To Vote in a KPA Election

The KPA Elections use a method of voting in which voters rank the candidates in order of preference.

The voter puts a number by each candidate, putting a 1 for their favourite, 2 for their second preference, 3 for their third preference, and so on. They can put numbers next to as many or as few candidates as they wish.

“Re-Open Nominations” is always given as a candidate that can be voted for. This gives voters the opportunity to say they do not want to vote for any of the candidates and would like to have a better choice.

The voting system first counts how many “Number 1” votes each candidate has received. If more than half of all the voters (50% +1) have the same favourite candidate, that person is elected. If nobody gets half, the numbers provide instructions for what happens next.

The vote counter (in our case the electronic voting system) removes the candidate who got the least number of votes and looks at all the voting cards that placed that losing candidate as “Number 1”. Rather than throwing away these votes, they look at the voters’ second choice candidate and move the vote to them.

This process is repeated until one candidate has more than half of the votes (50% +1) and that person is then elected. It can take several “rounds” of vote counting and re-allocating, before one candidate has more than 50% of the votes.

In the example below, the voter put candidate C as their first choice, Candidate A as their second choice, and Candidate D as their third choice. They did not enter a fourth choice – this is fine. They could just put a “1” against their favourite candidate and leave it at that.

VOTING CARD	
CANDIDATE A	
CANDIDATE B	
CANDIDATE C	
CANDIDATE D	
RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS	

Remember that if you put anything other than numbers in the box beside each candidate, your vote will not be counted. The system only recognises numbers - 1,2,3, etc.

If you have any questions about the voting process or how to vote, please email kpa.elections@keele.ac.uk