

<u>Criteria for Evaluation</u>	<u>Plurality At-Large</u>	<u>Plurality District</u>	<u>PR At-Large</u>	<u>PR District</u>
African American Representation	---*Poor if AA population is under 40-45% if population large, can be advantageous	+++* Depends on how the lines are drawn; race conscious boundaries are under legal challenge; AA population in majority white districts may feel unrepresented	+++*Especially useful where AA population is more dispersed; avoids reinforcing or encouraging geographic racial segregation	+++*Allows greater opportunity for electing AA representative within majority white area
Geographical Representation	---*Its major purpose is opposed to the idea of representing geographic parts; geographic representation can occur but is incidental	+++*Its major purpose is to represent geographic parts; but some neighborhoods within districts can end up feeling not represented	--*Not its major purpose, but not necessarily opposed-any group (including geographically cohesive area) that meets the threshold can win representation; can produce poor results	+++*Multimember districts can overcome any deficiencies here
Max. Effective Votes/Min. Wasted Votes	--*Tendency to produce wasted votes where many votes cast do not elect anyone	--*In two-person race, 49% of votes cast can elect no one; in three-person race, 60% of votes cast can be wasted	+++*Increases number of voters whose vote helps to elect a candidate	+++*Reduces wasted votes and enhances number of effective votes as with PR-AL
High Voter Turnout	--*Tends to lower turnout due to confusions of large field with incumbency advantage, wasted votes, etc.	--*Tends to lower voter turnout due to tendency to produce safe seats with incumbency advantage, wasted votes, etc.	+++*Strong correlation with higher turnout believed to be related to voters' enhanced ability to find candidates they support with a realistic chance of winning and groups' greater motivation to get out the vote for their candidates due to a lower threshold to win	+++*Strong correlation with higher turnout for same reasons cited under PR AL
Fair Gender Representation	+++*Some correlation between presence of female representation and presence of multimember election systems	--*Such systems tend to be among the lowest in terms of percentage of women elected	+++*Stronger correlation here than with Plurality AL	++
Sufficient Range of Voter Choice	+++*Voter gets to select several reps from a typically large field, including minor party candidates and independents	--*Limits voters to choosing one rep from a limited number of candidates-system promotes two-party system and safe seats so choice can end up between only two candidates or even no choice	+++*Voters get even more choices than under Plurality AL because system encourages more minor parties and groups to run candidates with a realistic chance of winning	+++*Same reasons as PR AL
Majority Rule	*Weights system somewhat in favor of largest party or group, but more likely than districts to produce working majorities (coalitions)	*Weights system in favor of largest party, giving them a majority or exaggerating their majority support in the electorate	*Avoids manufactured or exaggerated one party or group majorities and encourages working majorities	*Same as PR AL

Criteria for Evaluation

Resistance to Fraud and Political Manipulation

Plurality At-Large

*Avoids problem of gerrymandering and discourages negative campaigning, but promotes expensive campaigning with potential for campaign financial abuses

Plurality District

--*Encourages gerrymandering, negative campaigning, and possibility of spoiler candidates; but if districts are small enough it can allow less expensive campaigning

PR AT-Large

+++*Avoids gerrymandering and spoiler candidates, discourages negative campaigning, promotes candidate frankness on issues; potential for campaign finance problems, but can be avoided with targeting voters to achieve the required low threshold to win

PR District

+++*Same as PR AL but likely potential for campaign finance problems reduced

Close Links between Constituents and Reps

-*Does occur but more fluid and less clear cut

++*More clear cut but harder for constituent to be heard if not part of the majority or plurality that elected the rep

-*Does occur but more fluid and less clear cut

++*More clear cut and more options for constituents

Stable and Effective Government

*Can argue either way

*Can argue either way

*Can argue either way

*Can argue either way

Fair and Accurate Party Representation

-*Weights system somewhat in favor of largest party

-*Reinforces two parties, cutting out minor parties

++*Allows representation of parties in proportion to their electoral strength

++*Same as PR AL