



## AMS Ranked Ballots: How they Work

The AMS uses a Single Transferrable Vote system to tabulate the ranked ballots. The following system is followed:

- (1) Initially, votes are counted according to highest preference expressed on the ballot. If a candidate receives sufficient ballots marked for them with first preferences to achieve a simple majority of 50% +1 of the ballots cast, they are declared the winner
- (2) If no candidate receives sufficient ballots marked for them with first preferences to achieve the fifty percent plus one (50% +1) threshold of ballots cast, then a second round of counting occurs. The candidate with the fewest number of ballots marked with first preferences for them will be removed from the second round of counting and the ballots marked with first preferences for this candidate are redistributed according to the second highest preference expressed on that ballot.
- (3) If two or more candidates tie for the least number of first preferences in the first round of counting, then they are both be eliminated and their ballots redistributed according to their second preferences.
- (4) This same procedure is repeated until one candidate receives sufficient votes to achieve a simple majority of fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of the ballots cast, at which point this candidate is declared the winner.
- (5) If only two candidates remain and neither has reached the fifty percent plus one (50% +1) threshold of votes cast, the team with the highest number of votes is declared the winner.
- (6) If two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of high preferences being considered in a particular round, other than the first, then the candidate that had the fewest first preferences will be eliminated from contention and those ballots will be redistributed according to those ballots next highest expressed preferences.

The AMS Chief Electoral Officer casts a tiebreaking vote, in a sealed envelope, prior to the beginning of the election. If, after all of the above steps, there is an even-split of votes, the CEO's vote will be considered to be the tiebreaking vote.

