

## Defining Key Elements & Identifying Alternate Systems

Deliberative Phase: Weekend 2

## Citizen Assembly's Assessment of Most Desirable System Features

- ❑ Local Representation
- ❑ Seats reflecting Votes
- ❑ Greater Voter Choice

*These are electoral system features: other desirable features – for instance, government stability OR socially balanced legislatures – are indirect consequences of an electoral system and so not elements of the architecture of the electoral system proper.*

## 3 Propositions for Debate

- ❑ The Citizens' Assembly affirms that BC's electoral system ought to incorporate an element of effective local representation
- ❑ The Citizens' Assembly affirms that BC's electoral system ought to translate vote shares into seat shares in a way that reflects the preferences of the electorate
- ❑ The Citizens' Assembly affirms that the ballot form used in BC's electoral system ought to provide for as much individual voter choice as possible

## The Citizens' Assembly affirms that BC's electoral system ought to incorporate an element of effective local representation

- This leaves open the questions of:
  - how local is local – might it be a region (e.g. the North or the Kootenays) or does it need to be constituency size?
  - the form (e.g. single or multi-member districts) such representative might take
- **Adoption of this proposition effectively rules out further consideration of a full List PR electoral system**

## The Citizens' Assembly affirms that BC's electoral system ought to translate vote shares into seat shares in a way that reflects the preferences of the electorate

- This leaves open the questions of:
  - just how 'proportional' a system ought to be (*i.e.*, *Lite to full proportionality*)
  - the issue of whether a party ought to demonstrate some minimum level of support
- **Adoption of this proposition effectively rules out further consideration of a full majority electoral system** (*but majority voting might be used in a mixed system*)

## The Citizens' Assembly affirms that the ballot form used in BC's electoral system ought to provide for as much individual voter choice as possible

- **Ballot forms are to some extent dictated by the nature of the particular electoral system family in use**

## Which Electoral System Families meet Citizens' Assembly criteria?

- Plurality    ■ Our Benchmark
- List PR    ■ Fails on local representation test
- Majority    ■ Fails on proportionality test
- STV    ■ Possible
- Mixed    ■ Possible

## STV Design Elements for Decision

1. District Magnitude  
*size; uniform or varied across the province*
2. Quota  
*Hare OR Droop (Farrell p 71-3, 127-30)*
3. Ballot Form  
*candidate ordering; completion rules*
4. Preference Transfer rules
5. Seat vacancy provision  
*by-election, recounting ballots*

## Mixed Design Elements for Decision

1. **Mix Principle:** *parallel, proportional or compensatory. If **compensatory**, what provisions and for whom*
2. **Balance between local and list seats**
3. **Candidate seat eligibility:** *local and/or list, or both*
4. **List-Constituency access and compatibility provisions:** *The Italian problem – MMP to MMM?*
5. **Number of Votes:** *2 – local & list OR 1 – local*

## Mixed Design Elements for Decision

6. **Constituency seats:** *plurality OR majority principle (preferential OR run-off)*
7. **PR seats:**
  - 7.1 **Regional OR Provincial list**
  - 7.2 **Level** *at which seats **Allocated**; at which seats **Assigned***
  - 7.3 **Ballot form:** *closed OR open list (if open, choices and counting rules)*
  - 7.4 **Formula** *(for list seat allocations, Farrell p 71-8)*
  - 7.5 **Threshold(s):** *kind and level*
  - 7.6 **Overhang ?** – *if Proportional*
8. **Seat vacancy** *provisions for both types of seats*