

The Closed List Proportional Representation electoral system

description	Closed List PR is a form of proportional representation in which voters can vote for a party list but cannot vote for any individual candidate on a list. The votes cast for each party determine the number of seats the party wins. Each party's seats are allocated to its candidates in the order they appear on the party's list. The law may require a party to reach a certain level of votes, called a 'threshold', before it receives seats, e.g. 3% or 5%.																																				
some of the countries that use the system	Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, France, Honduras, Iraq (2005), Israel, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay																																				
advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is simple to vote and to count the votes • ballots are simple because they only need to show parties, not all the list candidates • seats are distributed fairly between parties according to their votes • encourages participation because fewer votes are wasted by being cast for losing parties • encourages cooperation between parties in the legislature • parties attract voters by having 'balanced' lists according to gender, ethnicity, geography, age, religion, etc; closed lists make these attempts to promote diverse representation more effective 																																				
disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voters cannot change the order of candidates on party lists • because Closed List PR makes it likely that no single party will win a majority of seats, coalitions or alliances may be needed after the election to form a government and to pass laws 																																				
effect of the number of seats in a district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger electoral districts will produce more proportional results 																																				
implications for political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows smaller parties and minorities to be represented • gives a lot of power to parties and their leaders to decide the order of list candidates 																																				
representation of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A party can decide to ensure women are elected by placing women candidates high on its list. The law requires this in some countries. In Iraq's 2005 parliamentary elections, for example, at least one woman had to be in the first three candidates on a party's list, at least two women had to be in the first six candidates, and so on until the end of the list. • another option is to have reserved seats to which only women candidates can be elected 																																				
representation of minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a party can ensure minorities are elected by placing minority candidates high on its list • proportional representation makes it easier for small parties representing minorities to win seats • any formal threshold may be waived for parties representing minorities • reserved seats can be established to which only minority candidates can be elected 																																				
Example 1	<p style="text-align: center;">electoral district with 15 seats, 1,000 voters, 1,000 valid votes, no threshold</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>votes</th> <th>% votes</th> <th>seats*</th> <th>% seats</th> <th>winning candidates</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>party A</td> <td>150</td> <td>15.0</td> <td>3</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>A1, A2, A3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>party B</td> <td>135</td> <td>13.5</td> <td>2</td> <td>13.3</td> <td>B1, B2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>party C</td> <td>425</td> <td>42.5</td> <td>6</td> <td>40.0</td> <td>C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>party D</td> <td>200</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>3</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>D1, D2, D3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>party E</td> <td>45</td> <td>4.5</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.7</td> <td>E1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">* Hare quota, largest remainder</p>		votes	% votes	seats*	% seats	winning candidates	party A	150	15.0	3	20.0	A1, A2, A3	party B	135	13.5	2	13.3	B1, B2	party C	425	42.5	6	40.0	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6	party D	200	20.0	3	20.0	D1, D2, D3	party E	45	4.5	1	6.7	E1
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Example 2

electoral district with 15 seats, 1,000 voters, 1,000 valid votes, 5% threshold

	votes	% votes	seats*	% seats	winning candidates
party A	150	15.0	3	20.0	A1, A2, A3
party B	135	13.5	2	13.3	B1, B2
party C	425	42.5	7	46.7	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7
party D	200	20.0	3	20.0	D1, D2, D3
party E	45	4.5	0	0	

* Hare quota, largest remainder

Because Party E did not satisfy the 5% threshold, it is not eligible for any seats and its votes are excluded from the seat calculations.