

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Hare Method of Voting

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1. If I have one favorite candidate I prefer above all others, how do I vote?	Put a "1" next to that person's name.
2. Is there anything else I can do to increase my candidate's chances of winning a seat?	No.
3. What if I have a favorite, but also prefer some of the remaining candidates to others. How do I vote?	Put "2", "3" etc. next to the other candidates in order of your preference.
4. If I do that, do I diminish the chances of my favorite winning a seat?	No.
5. If I consider two candidates tied - exactly equal - is there any way for me to indicate that with my votes?	No. You must choose to rank each candidate for whom you want to vote with a distinct number.
6. What if I see the name on the ballot of someone I'd hate to see elected. How do I vote?	Leave a blank next to that person's name.
7. Besides that, is there anything else I can do to diminish that person's chance of winning a seat?	No.
8. I can understand the directions for voting, but I don't understand how ballots are counted. Doesn't that put me at a disadvantage against someone who knows how the count is done?	No. There are no strategies which can be used by someone who knows how the count is done to gain an advantage over someone who doesn't.
9. Why do we use the Hare system at Smith?	<p>In 1958 the Faculty adopted the Hare system because it is designed to produce committees comprised of people representing various viewpoints in numbers proportional to how many people in the electorate at large hold those viewpoints.</p> <p>It allows like-minded constituencies to assure themselves representation on a committee, while at the same time disallowing well organized constituencies from packing a committee.</p> <p>Since 1958 at least four ad-hoc committees to study voting at Smith have been appointed, roughly in 10-year intervals. After each study the Faculty has confirmed its decision to maintain the Hare system.</p>
10. Is there any other voting method which could accomplish the same thing without such a mystifying method of counting ballots?	None known to anyone on this faculty.
11. If I were willing to invest the time, how long would it take me to understand the counting intricacies of the Hare method so that it would no longer mystify me, and I could answer questions like these for myself?	About thirty minutes.