

# PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE UK PARLIAMENT

The accompanying map illustrates a simple scheme for proportional representation for the UK Parliament that could be implemented very quickly. It uses the Single Transferable Vote (STV) within constituencies based on local authority areas, mostly electing 3 to 6 MPs. This gives a high level of proportionality, while maintaining a strong local connection.

Such a scheme combines the usual advantages of STV, including . . .

- a high degree of proportionality, not only of parties but also of other groupings that matter to voters (votes are cast for individuals not party lists);
- because surplus votes, and votes for unsuccessful candidates, can be transferred to one's next preference, the voter can put candidates in his or her real order of preference; there is no need to vote tactically;
- wasted votes are minimised; also there are no safe seats, so that every vote matters;
- the great majority of voters end up with at least one MP that they voted for;
- parties can win seats across the country rather than being overconcentrated, for example only in rural or only in urban areas
- independent candidates have a fair chance of election;
- it is more difficult for extremist parties, because they tend not to be anyone's second preference

. . . with some additional advantages:

- the larger size of constituencies is compensated for by their being natural areas with which voters will find it easier to identify;
- aligning constituencies with local government areas is beneficial both to voters and representatives;
- boundaries would need to be changed only very rarely; population changes can instead be accommodated by changing the number of MPs for the constituency;
- it is very easy to keep up-to-date, using the current year's electoral register.

*For more details, see [lder.org/stv](http://lder.org/stv)*