Alternative Voting Methods and Arrangements: Standards and Commitments

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Alternative? Why now?

- Sometimes commonly used, so not very alternative
- COVID – need to innovate, protect and safeguard turnout
- New technologies – not a short-term fix
- Methods:
  - POSTAL
  - EARLY
  - MOBILE (home and institution-based)
  - PROXY
- Arrangements
  - In and around polling stations

Standards and Commitments

- Same as for any other election

- Key standards:
  - Universal
  - Equal
  - Free
  - Secret
  - Accountable

- Additional:
  - Early introduction
  - Consultation
  - Inclusivity

Methods: Balance (what matters?)

- **Universality – key objective.**
- Postal – free? secret? equal? accountable?
- Proxy – secret? equal? free?
- Early – accountable?
- Mobile – free? secret?

Safeguards are key.
Practical (and financial) aspects matter!
Trust matters even more!

Arrangements: Balance (what matters?)

- **Safety -> Universality – key objective.**
- Location – equal?
- Layout – secret?
- Hours – equal?
- Queue management – free? secret?

Practice matters more than plans.

Conclusions

- Same standards and commitments apply
- Universal, equal, free, secret, accountable – key issues
- Sometimes not so alternative – chance to learn
- Balance of objectives:
  - In theory – close to impossible
  - Practical considerations – bring solutions
- Introduction matters for trust and practice
  - Timely/early
  - Consultation and inclusion