

Spring Conference 2025

POLICY MOTION

STV by 2030

MOTION AS AGREED BY CONFERENCE

This conference notes:

- A. The closed list system to be used for the next Senedd elections reduces the link between Senedd members and their electorate by giving the voter only a choice between party nominated lists.
- B. The Senedd list constituencies created by the pairing of Westminster Parliamentary constituencies bear little relation to local authority or community links.
- C. The General Election in 2024 showed the greatest ever disparity between votes cast for each party and seats won, with the over 57.8% of votes in the UK being cast for candidates who were not elected.
- D. Three Councils, Powys, Ceredigion and Gwynedd, chose to consult their residents on a possible change to the Single Transferable Vote and in all three councils the results showed support for STV of over 60%.
- E. In Ceredigion and Gwynedd the change to STV was only prevented by the requirement of two thirds support from councillors.
- F. That the House of Commons supported a ten minute rule bill introduced by Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Olney to require proportional voting systems for future UK general elections and local elections.

This Conference re-affirms the Welsh Liberal Democrats long held support for the use of the Single Transferable Vote for all elections and sets the goal of achieving it by 2030.

This Conference calls for the next Senedd:

1. To immediately introduce legislation for the introduction of the Single Transferable Vote for all public elections over which it has control.
2. To initiate a boundary review to ensure that the Senedd elections in 2030 and the Council elections in 2031 are held by STV in constituencies and wards electing a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 Senedd members or councillors.
3. To legislate to ensure that vacancies in the Senedd can only be filled by by-elections conducted by the single transferable vote or alternative vote.
4. To press the Westminster Government to ensure that the next Police & Crime Commissioner elections due to be held in 2028 are held by the alternative vote.